

2021 RULES OF COMPETITION

FOOTBALL VICTORIA

1. GENERAL MATTERS APPLICABLE TO ALL COMPETITIONS 1
1.1. Application and Definitions 1
1.2. Consequences of Breach 3
1.3. Monies Owing to FV 4
1.4. Registrations, Forfeits and Abandonments 5
1.5. Protection of Important Fixtures 7
1.6. Sanctioned Matches 8
1.7. Insurance 8
1.8. Strict Liability of Clubs 8
1.9. Club Name or New Club Name Application 8
1.10. Ticketing and Refunds of Money 10
1.11. Security at Home Pitches 10
1.12. Representative Teams 11
1.13. Member Protection 11
1.14. Club Compliance and National Club Accreditation 12
1.15. Correspondence / Communication 12
1.16. COVID-19 Protocols 13
2. COMPETITION RULES 14
2.1. General Information 14
2.2. Player Eligibility 15
2.3. Gender Rules 15
3. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS 17
3.1. Facilities / Pitch Arrangements 17
3.2. The Technical Area 18
3.3. Match Records 18
3.4. Ground Marshals 20
3.5. Player's Strip / Apparel 21
3.6. Stretchers / First Aid 22
3.7. Smoking / Drinking at Venues 22
3.8. National Flags, Slogans & Emblems 22
3.9. Lighting Standards 23
4. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS 24
4.1. Duration of Competition Fixtures 24
4.2. Abandoned Competition Fixtures 25
4.3. Postponed/Rescheduled Competition Fixtures 27
4.4. Weather Conditions 27
4.5. Match Points 28
4.6. Non- Participation in a Competition Fixture (unless not permitted to do so as a direct result of Protocols issued by the Australian Government or Victorian Government) 28
4.7. Change of Venue/Fixture Requests by Club 29
5. MATCH OFFICIALS 31
5.1. Match Official Fees 31
5.2. Assistant Match Officials 31
5.3. Assistant Match Officials 31
5.4. Decisions of the Match Official 32
5.5. Pitch and Facility Inspection Report 32
5.6. Match Records and Misconduct Reports 32
5.7. Player Safety and Blood Rule 32
5.8. Match Reporting 33
6. REGISTRATION 34
7. CODES OF BEHAVIOUR 35
8. MINIMUM FACILITY REQUIREMENTS – COMMUNITY COMPETITIONS 36

9. FOOTBALL LIGHTING POLICY & REQUIREMENTS 37

SCHEDULE 1 – 2021 MEN'S COMPETITION REGULATIONS– MEN'S STATE LEAGUE 39

10. COMPETITION STRUCTURE 39

10.1. General Information 39
10.2. Victorian Men's State Leagues 40
10.3. Promotion and Relegation 42
10.4. Vacancies in Victorian Men's State League 43
10.5. New Entries and 'Byes' 45

11. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS 46

11.1. Substitution 46
11.2. Match Balls 46
11.3. Results of Competition Fixtures 46

12. FIXTURE DETAILS 48

12.1. Admittance to Competition Fixtures 48
12.2. Media and Other Passes 49

13. MATCH OFFICIAL RESPONSIBILITIES 50

13.1. Best and Fairest Votes 50

14. MEN'S STATE LEAGUES FINALS SERIES 51

14.1. Competition Format 51
14.2. Procedures to Determine the Winner of Finals / Play Off Matches 51
14.3. Discipline 52
14.4 Player Restrictions 52

SCHEDULE 2 – 2021 WOMEN'S COMPETITION REGULATIONS– VPLW & WOMEN'S STATE LEAGUE 54

15. COMPETITION STRUCTURE 54

15.1. General information 54
15.2. Multiple Teams in VPLW/Women's State League Structure 55
15.3. Women's Victorian Premier League & Women's State League 1 56
15.4. Women's State League 2 - 5 56
15.5. Promotion and Relegation 57
15.6. New Teams/New Division/New Leagues 57
15.7. Vacancies in VPLW/Women's State League 58
15.8. Scheduling of Matches – Days of Play 59

16. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS 60

16.1. Interchange 60
16.2. Match Balls 60
16.3. Results of FV Competition Fixtures 60

17. FIXTURE DETAILS 62

17.1. Admittance to Competition Fixtures 62

18. MATCH OFFICIAL RESPONSIBILITIES 63

18.1. Best and Fairest Votes 63

19. VPLW/WSL FINALS SERIES 64

19.1. Competition Format 64
19.2. Procedures to Determine the Winner of Finals 65
19.3. Discipline 65
19.4. Player Restrictions 65

SCHEDULE 3 – 2021 METROPOLITAN JUNIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS.....68

20. COMPETITION STRUCTURE 68

20.1. General Information 68
20.2. Junior Boys' Competition 70
20.3. Under 12 & Under 13 (9v9 Competition).....71
20.4. Under 21 Competition 72
20.5. Junior Girls' Competition.....72
20.6. Composition of Leagues 73
20.7. Regrading & Late Team Entries.....75
20.8. Team Entry.....76

21. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS 78

21.1. Substitution/Interchange.....78
21.2. Match Balls 78
21.3. Results of Competition Fixtures.....79

22. JUNIOR FINALS SERIES 80

22.1. Results of Competition Fixtures.....80
22.2. Procedures to Determine the Winner of Finals 81
22.3. Discipline 81
22.4. Player Restrictions.....81

SCHEDULE 4 – 2021 MEN'S METROPOLITAN & MASTERS COMPETITION REGULATIONS 83

23. COMPETITION STRUCTURE 83

23.1. General Information 83
23.2. Metropolitan Competition 83
23.3. Metropolitan Masters League 84
23.4. Vacancies in Men's Metropolitan Competitions.....85
23.5. Player Restrictions.....86

24. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS 88

24.1. Interchange 88
24.2. Match Balls 88
24.3. Results of Competition Fixtures.....89

25. FIXTURE DETAILS.....90

25.1. Admittance to Fixtures.....90

26. FINALS SERIES.....91

26.1. Metropolitan Competition Finals Format 91
26.2. Metropolitan Masters Competition Finals Format.....92
26.3. Procedure to Determine the Winner of Finals.....92
26.4. Discipline 93
26.5. Player Restrictions.....93

SCHEDULE 5 – CODES OF BEHAVIOUR.....94

SCHEDULE 6 – MINIMUM FACILITY REQUIREMENTS – COMMUNITY COMPETITIONS.....101

1. GENERAL MATTERS APPLICABLE TO ALL COMPETITIONS

1. GENERAL MATTERS APPLICABLE TO ALL COMPETITIONS

1.1. Application and Definitions

1.1.1. These Rules shall apply to all Competition Fixture(s) and Sanctioned Match(es) as defined in Rule 1.1.5.

1.1.2. If any provision of these Rules is held invalid or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction then the remainder of these Rules and the application thereof shall not be affected thereby and shall continue to be valid and enforceable to the fullest extent permitted by law.

1.1.3. These Rules shall be subject to amendment in FV's sole discretion, including where required as a result of Government regulation(s). If these Rules are amended for any reason, FV will take reasonable steps to notify Clubs of the amendment(s).

1.1.4. Terms defined in the FV Constitution, 2021 FV Registration Regulations and/or the GDT shall have the same meaning in these Rules unless otherwise stated.

1.1.5. In addition to Rule 1.1.4 unless the context otherwise requires, the following definitions apply:

a. **Abandoned** means a Competition Fixture which has failed to commence for any reason or has commenced but has been stopped by the Match Official prior to its conclusion in accordance with Rule 4.2.

b. **Competition Regulations** or **Regulations** means the regulations which supplement these Rules, and which apply to the competitions administered by FV for Men's Football, Women's Football, Junior Football and Metro & Masters Football, as amended and updated by FV from time to time.

c. **Club** has the same meaning as in the FV Constitution and includes but is not limited to a Futsal Club.

d. **Club Associate(s) or Club Official(s)** has the meaning given to it in the GDT.

e. **Competition Fixture** means any match that is administered by FV and includes matches to which FV appoints Match Official(s).

f. **Cup Fixture** means any knock-out cup match, fixture or other event organized and/or administered by FV or FA before, after or in conjunction with a Regular Season and includes, but is not limited to, the Dockerty Cup, FFA Cup and Women's State Knockout Cup (currently the Nike F.C Cup).

g. **Default Notice** means a notice of default issued by FV in relation to an amount owed to FV by a Club or a player which that Club or player has failed to pay in accordance with Rule 1.3.

h. **Division** means a particular grade or level of men's or women's competition within Victorian Football (e.g. Men's State League 1 or Women's State League 3 or Men's Metropolitan League 3).

i. **FA** means Football Australia

j. **FV** means Football Victoria.

k. **Field of Play** means:

(i) At an enclosed pitch the entire area within the temporary or permanent perimeter fencing; or

(ii) At an open pitch the entire area within 3 metres of the boundary line of the football pitch.

l. **Final** means a Competition Fixture played to determine the champion of a Finals Series administered by FV.

m. **Forfeit** means failure to participate in a Competition Fixture if the Club or Team in question has failed to notify FV at least three (3) days prior to the Competition Fixture.

n. **Futsal Club** means a Club which plays in a futsal competition administered by FV.

o. **GDT** means the FV Grievance Discipline and Tribunal By Law (as amended from time to time)

p. **Goal Difference** means the difference between goals scored by a Club/Team (Goals For) and goals scored against a Club/Team (Goals Against) in a match or season.

q. **Home Club** means the Club named first in a Competition Fixture.

r. **Host Club** means a Club which hosts one or more Competition Fixtures or Finals at its home venue, whether or not that Club participates in one of those Competition Fixtures or Finals or not.

s. **IFAB** means International Football Association Board.

t. **League** (when referred to Men's or Women's football) means a particular competition within a Division (such as Men's State League 1 South-East or Women's State League 3 North or Men's Metropolitan League 3 North-West).

u. **Match Official** means a match official as defined in the GDT.

v. **Match Record** means the official log (hard copy or online) of the Competition Fixture recording all match details including participants and results.

w. **Misconduct** has the meaning given to it in the GDT.

x. **No Result** means recording a '0-0' score line in a Competition Fixture with no points or goals awarded to either Team. A 'No Result' is recorded as a Competition Fixture played.

y. **Non-Participation in a Fixture** means failure to participate in a Competition Fixture having notified FV more than three (3) days prior to the Competition fixture.

z. **Normal Time** means the maximum length of two (2) equal periods not including added time as specified in Rule 4.1 and Table 4.1 unless any time reduction is otherwise determined in accordance with Rule 4.1.

aa. **Play Off Match** means a Competition Fixture played to determine the final standings of a League or the eligibility for promotion/relegation of a Team between Leagues or Divisions.

bb. **Played** means:

(i) A Team has participated in a Competition Fixture.

In specific reference to a player, **Played** means:

(ii) Being listed on the Match Record in a League where the interchange rule applies; or

(iii) Starting the Competition Fixture on or consequently being substituted onto the Field of Play in a League where the substitution rule applies.

(iv) If a player is originally listed on the Match Record and it is subsequently indicated on the Match Record that the player is no longer to participle in the Competition Fixture, that change must be acknowledged by signature of the senior Match Official prior to the commencement of the Competition Fixture. Failure to comply will deem the player to have 'Played' that fixture under Rule 1.1.5.aa.

cc. **Player ID Card** means the Play Football generated ID card containing recent photo, date of birth, FA number, full name, and Club name for that player.

dd. **Postponed** means a Competition Fixture which has not commenced as scheduled.

ee. **Registered** means registered and eligible in Play Football in accordance with the 2021 FV Registration Regulations.

ff. **Regrading Result** means a result which has been attributed due to a team that has been regraded into a Competition.

gg. **Regular Season** means the time and Competition Fixtures between the first and last round of the relevant competition in addition to any Play Off Match(es) required for the League in question.

hh. **Rule** or **Rule of Competition** means a rule set out in a clause or clauses of these 2021 Rules of Competition.

ii. **Risk Assessment and Security Policy** is the FV policy which outlines minimum security requirements and responsibilities at Competition Fixtures.

jj. **Sanctioned Match** means any match to which FV appoints one (1) or more Match Official(s) but does not administer directly. This includes matches to which FV is unable to appoint one (1) or more Match Official(s) due to availability, but a request for appointment has been made and acknowledged.

kk. **Team** means a football team entered by a Club in a League or, in junior football (U7s to U21s) a team entered by a Club in a competition, administered by FV.

ll. **Technical Area** is as defined in the Minimum Facility Requirements set out in Schedule 3.

1.2. Consequences of Breach

1.2.1. In addition to any consequences stated in the Rules or Regulations, any proven breach of or failure to comply with an obligation or requirement set out in these Rules or Regulations may amount to Misconduct and if so shall be subject to the provisions of the GDT.

1.2.2. To avoid doubt, where these Rules or Regulations do not specify the consequences of a breach or failure to comply with these Rules or Regulations, such breach or failure to comply may still amount to Misconduct and if so shall be subject to the provisions of the GDT.

1.3. Monies Owing to FV

Monies Owing by a Club

1.3.1. All amounts owed by a Club to FV must be paid within 30 days of the date of the invoice issued by FV in relation to that amount.

1.3.2. If a Club fails to pay any amount owing to FV in accordance with Rule 1.3.1, FV may issue a Default Notice giving the Club a further 14 days to pay that amount.

1.3.3. If a Club fails to comply with a Default Notice issued in accordance with Rule 1.3.2, or agree to a repayment plan with FV for the amount owed, FV may, at its sole discretion:

a. Rule that Club (or the applicable Team(s) within that Club) ineligible to earn competition points in any Competition Fixture or Sanctioned Match in which the Club (or Team) plays, until the debt is paid.

b. Suspend or expel that Club (or Team(s)) from any Competition Fixture (including Cup Fixtures) and/or FV competitions.

c. Prohibit that Club (or Team(s)) from promotion whilst the debt remains unpaid.

d. Relegate that Club (or Team(s)) while the debt remains unpaid.

e. Deduct championship points from a Club (or Team) for the current season where the debt remains unpaid.

f. Deduct championship points from a Club (or Team) for the following season where the debt remains unpaid or accrues after 31 October of the relevant year.

1.3.4. If FV and a Club agree to a repayment plan in relation to a debt owed by the Club to FV and the Club fails to meet any of the terms of that payment plan by the stipulated date and time, FV may immediately and without the need to issue a further Default Notice, impose one or more of the sanctions referred to in Rule 1.3.3.

Monies Owing by a Player

1.3.5. All amounts owed by a player to FV must be paid within 30 days of the date of the invoice issued by FV in relation to the amount payable or such sooner time as required under the GDT.

1.3.6. If a player fails to pay any amount owing to FV in accordance with Rule 1.3.5, FV may issue a Default Notice giving the player a further 14 days to pay that amount.

1.3.7. If a player fails to comply with a Default Notice issued in accordance with Rule 1.3.6, or agree to a repayment plan with FV for the amount owed, FV may, at its sole discretion, suspend that player from any or all FV competitions or representative Teams on such terms as it sees fit until such debt is paid or secured to the satisfaction of FV.

1.3.8. FV may offset any monies owed by FV to a Club or a player against any amount owed by a Club or a player to FV prior to the issue of an invoice to a Club or player for amounts owing to FV.

1. GENERAL MATTERS APPLICABLE TO ALL COMPETITIONS

1.4. Registrations, Forfeits and Abandonments

Definitions

1.4.1. For the purposes of this Rule:

a. **Change of Status** has the same meaning as in the FV Registration Regulations.

b. **Dual Registration** has the same meaning as in the FV Registration Regulations.

c. **Field** means to record a player's name on the Match Record and "Fields" and "Fielded" have corresponding meanings.

d. **Ineligible** means a player who is one of the following:

(i) Playing for the wrong Club or Team.

(ii) Playing within a stand-down period due to Change of Status.

(iii) Playing while registered for two clubs at the same time without a Dual Registration exemption to do so.

(iv) Playing while not Registered.

(v) Playing while under Suspension under the GDT.

(vi) A player who has been shown a red card earlier in a fixture that is still being played.

(vii) Playing while ineligible to do so for any other reason determined by FV.

(viii) A Player or Players in breach of Rule 2.2; or

(ix) A Player or Players in respect of Rule 2.3.

e. **Offence** means when FV has found upon investigation, audit, processing, or notification there has been a breach of this Clause including any of the previous fixtures in which an Unregistered or Ineligible Player(s) has participated.

f. **Register** and **Registered** means a player who is registered in accordance with the applicable FV Registration Regulations, and/or FA National Registration, Status and Transfer Regulations, including without limitation seeking an International Transfer Clearance (ITC) where applicable.

g. **Request for information** refers to where from time to time FV may request that a Club provide to it information in relation to player registration matters or otherwise as reasonably requested to ensure the integrity of football.

h. **Unregistered** means a player who is not Registered.

Registration – Scope and Penalties

1.4.2. All Clubs and Teams must Register all Players in accordance with the FV Registration Regulations.

1.4.3. FV may find Unregistered or Ineligible Player(s) through random audits, daily processing or upon investigation following notification of a breach of this Rule.

1.4.4. Where a Club or Team Fields an Unregistered or Ineligible Player in a Competition Fixture, including Finals or Play-Off Matches, the following applies:

a. A Team that is found to have fielded an Unregistered or Ineligible Player(s) during a Competition Fixture(s), the score for the respective Competition Fixture(s) must be amended as follows:

(i) where that Team loses the Competition Fixture, the result is the greater, in terms of score margin, of the actual score or a 3-0 result.

(ii) where the score is a draw that Team is deemed to have lost the Competition Fixture 3-0; or

(iii) where that Team wins the Competition Fixture, the result is a 3-0 win to the non-infringing Team.

b. Notwithstanding Rule 1.4.4 a above, where FV finds that a Club or Team has Fielded Unregistered or Ineligible Player(s) in multiple Competition Fixtures over a period of time, FV may in its absolute discretion:

(i) deduct competition points from the Team, capped at 12 points, without altering any of the corresponding individual Competition Fixture results; or

(ii) reverse such Competition Fixture results 3-0 as necessary

c. Matters that FV may take into account in making a decision under Rule 1.4.4b above include, but are not limited to:

(i) whether or not in FV's opinion the Unregistered or Ineligible Player(s) was intentionally or inadvertently Fielded;

(ii) whether a genuine administrative error occurred;

(ii) whether the Club made any enquiries to FV about the Player(s) prior to the Competition Fixture;

(iii) the experience of the Team or Club administrator;

(iv) the age-group affected; and/or

(v) any other factors FV may consider relevant in the circumstances.

By way of example: where FV learns in round 9 of a season that an U14 Team has inadvertently failed to correctly register a Player, rather than automatically deduct 27 points from that Team and reverse 9 Competition Fixtures, FV may either deduct up to 12 points from the Team and not reverse any individual Competition Fixtures, or reverse such Competition Fixtures as necessary.

1.4.5. Where FV learns of an Unregistered or Ineligible Player(s) via internal audits, and no Club or Team has raised a formal protest about those Players within the time set out in the next sub-clause, FV *may* deal with the matter via a warning and reprimand for the first occasion in its absolute discretion. The matter is then considered finalised (see *Additional Notes* section below).

1.4.6. The time limit for a Club or Team to Protest from the date of the relevant Competition Fixture, after which the result of the Competition Fixture is considered finalised, is:

a. the time limit specified in these rules of competition for the relevant competition; or

b. if there is no such time limit specified, ten calendar days.

Note on Rule 1.4.6. it is important for the integrity of the competition and league that the results of Competition Fixtures are considered final. The intention of this Clause is to prevent teams from "saving up" suspicions of Unregistered or Ineligible Players in other teams until shortly before finals, in order to make a last effort to accrue points for finals. Legitimate concerns by a team should be notified to FV promptly.

Additional notes: in state league junior football for U12s to U15s inclusive and junior metro football, the focus is on participation. Where Unregistered or Ineligible Player(s) in these leagues are identified, FV will favour an interpretation of a genuine administrative error unless it can be shown that the Unregistered or Ineligible Player(s) were played intentionally. However, in NPL leagues, or other state league or metro competitions, FV's expectation is for greater administrative compliance by Clubs, and participation by Unregistered or Ineligible Player(s) in these competitions may be interpreted against the Club or Team more stringently.

System or Technical Error

1.4.7. To avoid doubt, if there is a system or technical error in processing a registration, the above sanctions will be imposed until such system or technical error is proven by the Club or Team or Player, save that:

a. only those system or technical errors that occur on weekdays up until 5.00pm on a Friday, (excluding Public Holidays) will be taken into account; and

b. should a Club or Team decide to process registrations on non-business days (Weekends and/or Public Holidays) or after 5.00pm on a Friday, the Club or Team is responsible for ensuring all registrations are successfully processed and valid for all Club and team fixtures.

Request for Information

1.4.8. Where FV requests a Club to provide information in relation to a Club's registration matters, or otherwise as reasonably requested in order to ensure the integrity of football, the Club must comply within 7 days (or as otherwise reasonably requested by the FV).

1.4.9. A failure to comply with Rule 1.4.8 above results in all of that Club's teams playing for no points until the requested information is provided. Should a Club subsequently comply with Rule 1.4.8 above, any games which were played for no points during the non-compliance period will not be replayed, and any points lost are deemed as forfeited.

1.5. Protection of Important Fixtures

1.5.1. Where an A-League, W-League, International or an Inter-State match is scheduled in the State of Victoria, FV may determine that no other Competition Fixture or Sanctioned Match take place at the same time.

1.6. Sanctioned Matches

1.6.1. Any Club taking part in a Sanctioned Match must abide by any and all codes of conduct or codes of behaviour prescribed by FV and/or FA from time to time, including the Codes of Behaviour attached to these Rules at Schedule 2.

1.6.2. By participating in a Sanctioned Match, the Club and any League or association to which that Club belongs, submits to the jurisdiction of FV, its Rules and Regulations and the GDT.

1.6.3. Any Club or Team, association or organisation which administers or participates in any Sanctioned Match, must ensure that appropriate insurance and Work Cover arrangements are made to provide adequate and necessary coverage for their players, Match Officials, and all club associates involved in Sanctioned Matches.

1.6.4. Any Club or Team, association or organisation wishing to participate in any interstate or international match, tournament or event must apply in accordance with the 2021 FV Registration Regulations, writing to the FV Play Football Team for prior approval.

1.6.5. All Competition Fixtures take precedence over non-FV matches or fixtures or tournaments. Failure to fulfil Competition Fixtures for a non-FV match or fixture may result in disciplinary action in accordance with Rule 4.6.

1.7. Insurance

1.7.1. FV will negotiate and appoint an insurance company or companies to provide cover for all Club Associate and/or Club Officials and players registered with FV as it sees fit, provided Clubs are incorporated at all times.

Insurance of Players

1.7.2. All players taking the field of play (or training) must be insured through FV's Insurer (or as otherwise allowed by FV). Each player's insurance premium will be collected by FV at the time of player payment for registration via the Club Finance System (refer to the Summary of Cover as posted on the FV Website for policy details).

Insurance of Club Associates and officials

1.7.3. In addition to compulsory player insurance, FV shall provide through its insurance scheme, insurance known as 'Not for Profit Organisation Liability' for Club Associates and Club Officials.

1.8. Strict Liability of Clubs

1.8.1. Each Club shall be responsible for the conduct of its Club Associates and Club Officials at or in the vicinity of any Competition Fixture, Sanctioned Match or non-FV event in which a Club is engaged or is in attendance regardless of the responsibilities attaching to any other person or entity in respect of such a match or event.

1.9. Club Name or New Club Name Application

1.9.1. An application for either a new Club name or the change of an existing Club name must be made by the relevant Club in accordance with the FA Inclusivity Principles for Club Identity as published on the FA website.

1.9.2. FV will only assess an application under Rule 1.9.1 when all relevant information has been lodged with FV. FV may reject an application for a new name or a change of name as it sees fit.

1.9.3. The reference to 'Club name' in this Rule 1.9 includes the incorporated name, registered business name and/or approved playing name of a Club.

1.9.4. Process for new name application by a Club:

a. All submissions will be considered in accordance with FA Inclusivity Principles for Club Identity

b. The Club name must be approved in writing by the local government authority and be representative of the geographic area within which the Club is located.

c. Club name approval by FV and/or FA will at all times be subject to the Club holding any applicable legal right(s) to use that name and any associated logo. It is a Club's sole responsibility to ensure that it holds any applicable legal rights.

d. The Club must:

(i) Submit its request for a change of Club name or new Club name on Club letterhead with a completed NRR02B form

(ii) Provide full disclosure of the reasons for the requested change.

(iii) include a minimum of three (3) proposed names with their application for change of Club name or new Club name that can be assessed, and comply with Rule 1.9.4.d.(iv).

(iv) Receive written approval by local government authority and ensure that their proposed names are representative of the geographic area within which the Club is located.

(v) Subject to Rule 1.9.4.e., the new Club name must not contain any part of the name of any Club in the same or immediately adjoining municipalities, excepting the following traditional generic football names:

- United
- Rovers
- City
- Old
- Sporting

e. FV may, at its discretion, permit a new Club name to share a similar geographic reference to an existing Club name within the same or adjoining municipality if, in FV's opinion, the new Club (and its name) will not negatively impact any existing Club.

f. Where a change of name also involves a Club proposing to relocate to a different local government municipality, the application for change of name will not be considered unless evidence is provided to FV that there are no outstanding debts or other obligations to the former council/municipality.

1.9.5. FV will not approve the relocation of a Club to a different municipality unless it is in the best interests of Victorian football in general (to be determined at the sole discretion of FV) and no existing Club in the municipality to which the relocating Club wishes to move is materially disadvantaged (to be determined at the sole discretion of FV).

1.9.6. No Club is permitted to have more than one (1) incorporated name or registered business/playing name.

1.9.7. *Incorporation*

A Club must provide FV with documentary evidence of registration of any new name with the appropriate government authority. Failure to provide evidence in accordance with this Rule may result in previous approval by FV and/or FA of a new club name or a club name change being revoked.

1.10. Ticketing and Refunds of Money

1.10.1. Rule 1.10 is applicable to all Competition Fixtures where admission fees are charged.

1.10.2. Clubs that charge admission fees must hand over an admission ticket to the paying customer when the exchange of money is made.

1.10.3. It is the customer's responsibility to ensure that he or she retains proof of purchase.

1.10.4. Customers that present an authentic FA or FV Pass, Match Official Pass or are aged 14 years or younger, will be granted free entry to Competition Fixtures and do not require an admission ticket unless otherwise communicated by FV (for example in relation to Finals or Playoffs).

1.10.5. A copy of Rule 1.10 is to be displayed at the ticket box at all venues where admission fees are charged.

1.10.6. Paying customers will be entitled to a full refund (including car park fees) on the day of the Competition Fixture if the main Competition Fixture on the day has been postponed or abandoned prior to the conclusion of the first half of that fixture.

1.10.7. To be eligible to receive a full refund in accordance with Rule 1.10.6 the customer must present to the Home Club or the Host Club charging admission fees or FV in the instance of Finals, the admission ticket (or part thereof) issued in accordance with Rule 1.10.2.

1.10.8. Ticket prices must be clearly displayed at venue entry point.

1.11. Security at Home Pitches

1.11.1. The Home Club is responsible for providing appropriate arrangements to ensure the orderly behaviour of spectators and provide protection for Match Officials, players and Club Associates and officials at Competition Fixtures including but not limited to any specific requirements of FV which are notified to the Home Club.

1.11.2. All Clubs, players, Match Officials, Club Associates and Club Officials must comply with FV's Match Day Risk & Security Policy as promulgated by FV, and any security arrangements put in place as a result of the application of that policy.

1.11.3. Each Home Club is responsible for security and/or police as directed by FV. Ordinarily this will be wholly the responsibility of the Home Club but FV reserves the right to require any Club involved in a Competition Fixture to meet FV determined security requirements in accordance with Rule 1.11.2 or as otherwise determined by FV.

1.11.4. Home Clubs and Host Clubs must provide a lockable facility for all valuables of Match Officials(s) and participating Clubs. Failure to provide such a facility may result in the Home Club or Host Club not being allocated Competition Fixtures at their home ground.

1.11.5. Rules 1.11.1 – 1.11.4 apply to a Club's home ground or facility and any neutral ground or facility (including the State Football Centre at Darebin and the Knox Regional Football Centre) where that Club is listed as the Home Club for the purposes of a Competition Fixture to be played at the neutral ground or facility.

1.11.6. The Home Club or the Host Club will be held responsible if it is found that Match Official(s) do not receive all personal items back.

1.11.7. Each Club is responsible for the valuables of its players, and valuables that are left in change rooms are done so at the owners' personal risk.

1.11.8. Rule 1.11. is subject to FVs Risk Assessment and Security Policy which may be amended from time to time.

1.12. Representative Teams

1.12.1. Any player registered in Victoria will be eligible to represent Victoria in representative matches, camps or tours and each selected player must make themselves available for training, preparation and participation for representative matches, camps or tours when requested by FV.

1.12.2. All Clubs must release players for training and preparation for, and participation in, representative matches, camps or tours.

1.12.3. Where a Club has four (4) or more outfield players or two (2) goalkeepers from the same Team participating in an FV/FA approved representative match, camp or tour which conflicts with a Competition Fixture in which that Club or Team is required to participate, the Club may seek postponement of that Competition Fixture. Approved representative matches may include but are not limited to:

a. FA National Championships

b. FV State Teams

c. National Teams

1.12.4. All requests pursuant to Rule 1.12.3 must be received no less than 10 days prior to the Competition Fixture in question, unless the player is called up within the 10-day period by FV/FA for representative duty. FV shall determine the outcome of any request under this Rule at its absolute discretion and that decision cannot be appealed or reviewed.

1.13. Member Protection

1.13.1. FV has adopted the FA National Member Protection Policy and Framework (MPP) for all FV affiliated competition administrators, Clubs, players and Club Associates and officials. The MPP can be found by clicking the following link.

1.13.2. FV has partnered with Proud2Play and Pride In Sport in order to eradicate discrimination, particularly against those who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex. We have also updated FV Dispensation Policy which provides clear and concise process to dispensation requests. Dispensation requests allow Clubs to submit a request for a player/s to be granted exemption from FV to participate in competitions that they would otherwise not be eligible.

1.13.3. FV has a direct relationship with the Australian Human Rights Commission, Victorian Multicultural Commission and the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission in order to call on these expert organisations to receive advice, and deal with issues that will assist FV to eradicate race and ethnic based discrimination.

1.13.4. Football Victoria partners with Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) to run a range of diversity and inclusion programs to make football for all. These include programs such as the All Abilities Program, GO Deadly and GO Proud programs.

1.13.5. FV welcomes and fosters diversity in the world game. All persons, Clubs, players, Match Officials and/or Stakeholders involved with football are mandated to promote and provide safe and inclusive environments for all.

1.14. Club Compliance and National Club Accreditation

1.14.1. In order to be eligible to compete in FV competitions in 2021 a Club must comply with the requirements set out by the following:

a. Any Club compliance program;

b. FV's Club Compliance Policy;

c. The National Club Accreditation Scheme (NCAS) criteria;

d. Consumer Affairs Victoria;

e. Australian Securities and Investment Commission (as applicable);

f. any other relevant regulator or Government body.

1.15. Correspondence / Communication

1.15.1. All correspondence sent by FV to Clubs shall be deemed to have been received by Clubs:

a. In the case of online communication, the day on which it was published online.

b. In the case of email communication, the time at which it was sent.

c. In the case of communication sent by mail, two (2) business days after such communication was posted.

1.15.2. Clubs must ensure that their postal mailboxes, specified email accounts (including Spam and Junk folders) and the FV website are checked regularly, and that any information received is forwarded to the addressee or relevant parties within the Club.

1.15.3. All correspondence relating to Club requests, including, but not limited to; Competition Fixtures, forfeits, grading, result disputes and disciplinary matters must be made by a Club representative listed on Play Football. Requests made by anyone not listed as a Club representative in Play Football may not be actioned by FV.

1.15.4. All Clubs must have an active email address and phone number and ensure that this address and phone number and all other relevant details are current, up to date in Play Football and checked regularly by Club Associates and/or Club Officials.

1.15.5. Failure by a Club to keep a current, active email address and phone number and to check that email address and any voicemail service connected to its phone number regularly, cannot be relied on by the Club in relation to the question of whether or not notice of any matter was received by the Club from FV or otherwise.

1.15.6. FV reserves the right to only communicate with nominated club contacts as listed on PlayFootball.

1. GENERAL MATTERS APPLICABLE TO ALL COMPETITIONS

1.16. COVID-19 Protocols

1.16.1. All Clubs competing in FV Competitions and their Club Associates must comply with the COVID-19 Return to Training/ Play Conditions as published on the FV website and updated from time to time https://www.footballvictoria.com.au/return-conditions.



2. COMPETITION RULES

2.1. General Information

2.1.1. All Competition Fixtures are played under the IFAB Laws of the Game, unless otherwise specified in these Rules.

2.1.2. Only Teams from FV Clubs, regional affiliates or representative Teams may enter FV competitions.

2.1.3. If a Team is withdrawn on or before the point of the Regular Season at which all Teams have played each other once a 'BYE' will be inserted to replace the withdrawn Team in the fixture. All championship points along with goals scored (for & against) for that Team will be erased. All Best & Fairest votes gained in Competition Fixtures involving the withdrawn Team will also be erased.

2.1.4. If a Team is withdrawn after the point of the Regular Season at which all Teams have played each other an equal number of times, a 'BYE' will be inserted to replace the withdrawn Team in the fixture, and;

a. Competition Fixtures involving the withdrawn Team will be erased including all championship points along with goals scored (for & against).

b. All Best & Fairest or Gold Medal votes gained in:

(i) Competition Fixtures involving the withdrawn Team up to the point of the season at which all Teams have played each other an equal number of times will be erased;

(ii) Competition Fixtures involving the withdrawn Team from the point of the season at which all Teams have played each other an equal number of times, until the time the Team withdrew, will be erased.

For the avoidance of doubt, FV may consider forfeited matches as Played for the purposes of Rule 2.1.4.

2.1.5. If the withdrawing team causes the fixture to be imbalanced where all teams do not have the same amount of games played during the season, FV at its discretion will either:

a. schedule additional Competition Fixtures during their Regular Season; or

b. remove Competition Fixtures from their Regular Season.

If FV decides to proceed in accordance with Rule 2.1.5 (a), Competition Fixtures may be scheduled either mid-week or during a catch up round, at FV's discretion.

2.1.6. If a Team withdraws prior to the start of the Regular Season and is not replaced, a "BYE" will be inserted into the fixture or the fixture may be amended to accommodate the new number of Teams where practicable.

2.1.7. If a Team withdraws from a league involving fewer than 9 Teams or greater than 10 Teams, additional Competition Fixtures may be added or removed to ensure all Teams play an equal number of Competition Fixtures during the Regular Season.

2.1.8. FV may alter Competition Fixture kick-off dates, venues and/or times as it deems necessary in its sole and absolute discretion.

2. COMPETITION RULES

2.2. Player Eligibility

2.2.1. A player is eligible to play in his or her Team provided:

a. the player has been registered in line with FA and FV Registration Regulations;

b. all registration fees for the player have been received by FV, subject to Rule 2.2.4.

c. the player is not under suspension by FV, FA or FIFA ;

d. the player meets the competition's age group and gender rules where applicable and subject to any dispensation granted by FV (refer to relevant FV Regulations);

e. the player complies with the Match Record requirements set out in Rule 1.3.3

f. the player presents a current Player ID Card upon request to the Match Official for the player in the Competition Fixture, where that competition requires ID cards;

g. the player meets competition requirements for Finals or Play Off Matches.

2.2.2. Any Team which fields an ineligible player may be subject to penalty under the GDT.

2.2.3. Any Player playing under a dispensation granted by FV must produce the letter of dispensation on match day upon request by the Match Official. Failing to produce a letter of dispensation upon request by the Match Official may result in a charge of Misconduct under the GDT.

2.2.4. The dispensation process and regulations are clearly defined in Football Victoria's Dispensation Policy. FV at its sole discretion may amend any part of the dispensation policy as required from time to time.

2.2.5. At FV's discretion, Clubs/players may be given dispensation from Rule 2.2.1.b. for Cup Fixtures which take place prior to the commencement of the Regular Season.

2.2.6. If there is a dispute about a player(s) eligibility on the day of a Competition Fixture, the Match Official must note the details of that dispute and send those details to FV together with an incident report. No Club or Match Official may prevent a player from taking the field in a Competition Fixture on suspicion of ineligibility, unless that player is unable to present an ID Card in accordance with Rule 2.2.1.f.

2.2.7. Any decision made by FV regarding rule 2.2.2 is not subject to appeal.

2.3. Gender Rules

2.3.1. The Gender Rules form part of the FV Dispensation Policy. FV at its sole discretion may amend any part of the dispensation policy as required from time to time.

2.3.2. Under the Victorian Equal Opportunity Act, it is unlawful to discriminate on the ground of gender up until the age of 12 years.

2.3.3. Football Victoria allows players to play in gendered competition of their choosing under the following guidelines:

a. Players who identify as non-binary, transgender or intersex are permitted to participate in the competition of their choice, up to the age of U12 for a girl's competition, and up to the age of U13 for a boy's competition.

b. Players who identify as male are permitted to play in female competitions in accordance with the Equal Opportunity Act 2010 up until Under 12 girls. The player

must turn 12 or below during the 2021 calendar year and may play in their equivalent age group of female competitions without the prior approval of FV.

c. Players who identify as female are permitted to participate in male competitions up until Under 13 boys. The player must turn 13 or below during the 2021 calendar year and may play in their equivalent age group of male competitions without the prior approval of FV.

d. Players who identify as female are not permitted to participate in male competitions from Under 14 and above with the exception of the player falling into one of the below categories.

(i) the player is currently registered to a regional club without any reasonable female pathway available to the player. To be clear a regional club is classified as a Club that has received prior written approval by FV to participate in FV metropolitan community competitions excluding Geelong based clubs; or

(ii) the player receives prior written approval from the FA Technical Department.

The Club must provide FV with the following documentation in support of their application for gender dispensation in relation to a regional player and/or an FA-approved player;

- a signed letter from the player's Club president supporting the application.
- a signed letter from the player's Club Technical Director supporting the application.
- a signed letter of consent from the players parent (s) or guardian supporting the application.
- a document listing general medical details of the player by a medical professional including height and weight; and
- any further information requested.

e. Players who have affirmed their gender identity by transitioning to a gender that is different to their sex assigned at birth; are in the act of transitioning via gender affirming practices; or are non-binary people, are eligible to nominate to play in a competition of their choosing conducted for their affirmed gender and not sex assigned at birth, unless it is gives cause to a risk to themselves or others.

Note: FV may request supporting documentation as part of any application under these guidelines and applicants may be referred to FA's policy.

2.3.4. All decisions in relation to the gender rules are final and at the discretion of the FA & FV diversity and inclusion team, technical team and FV competitions team. These decisions are not appealable.

3. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

3.1. Facilities / Pitch Arrangements

3.1.1. It is the responsibility of all Clubs to:

a. provide a venue that complies with the minimum facility requirements for FV Competitions as prescribed and promulgated by FV from time to time. The minimum class of facility required for relevant FV Competitions is:

(i) VPLW, Men's & Women's State League, Men's Metropolitan League & Men's Metropolitan Masters - Senior class; and

(ii) Junior League (U12-U21) – Junior class

Current details of applicable facilities standards for each Division and League are set out in Schedule 6.

b. provide a safe environment for players, Match Officials, Club Officials and spectators.

c. ensure that their facilities and equipment are clean and fit for purpose.

d. ensure that all applicable State and local government statutory and other requirements have been met in respect of their facilities including but not limited to:

(i) legitimate approved use of the facility by the owner or land manager.

(ii) requirements under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, the *Food Act 1984* and the *Building Act 1993*;

(iii) any local laws including gaming and liquor licence legislation; and

(iv) holding an up to date liquor licence (RSA) and/or food handling certificate if applicable.

3.1.2. A Club which advises FV prior to commencement of a Regular Season that it cannot provide facilities in accordance with Rule 3.1 or which, during the course of the season, has facilities which are found by FV to not comply with these requirements may:

a. have its home fixtures moved to an alternate venue or forfeit those home fixtures if a move to an alternate venue is not possible in FV's opinion.

b. be required by FV to advise what steps the Club will take to ensure that it can meet its facility requirements and may be relegated to such Division as FV deems appropriate.

c. have Team(s) withdrawn from competition during the current Regular Season.

3.1.3. At the discretion of FV, a Club which fails to meet its facility requirements under Rule 3.1 may be relegated to a lower Division in the following Regular Season.

3.1.4. FV may in its sole discretion upon written request with supporting evidence grant a temporary dispensation from compliance with Rule 3.1 to a Club which:

a. is in the process of upgrading its facilities to meet FV's requirements; or

b. due to circumstances beyond its reasonable control the Club cannot comply with FV's requirements; or

c. has satisfied FV that the Club is taking all reasonable steps to ensure compliance with FV's facility requirements.

3.1.5. FV will not grant dispensation under Rule 3.1 from compliance with any requirement that relates to matters of safety or legislative compliance.

3.2. The Technical Area

3.2.1. A maximum of nine (9) persons are permitted to be within the Technical Area at any given time during a Competition Fixture. Those persons may only include the coach and assistant coach, the Team manager, the substitutes and a registered health practitioner, sports trainer or accredited first aider.

3.2.2. Subject to Rule 3.2.4 all persons must remain seated within the confines of the Technical Area, except in special circumstances e.g. a physiotherapist or doctor entering the field of play, with the Match Official's permission, to assess an injured player.

3.2.3. Players may leave the Technical Area to warm up, provided they do not interrupt the view or movement of any Match Official.

3.2.4. Only one (1) person may stand up at one (1) time within the Technical Area. It is the Home Club's responsibility to provide sufficient seating for both Clubs in the respective technical areas.

3.2.5. All persons within the Technical Area must be wearing colours that clearly distinguish them from all players and Match Officials on the field of play e.g. bibs, jackets.

3.2.6. The Match Official may expel any person from the Technical Area at any time as he or she sees fit. The Competition Fixture will not recommence until that person has left the Technical Area and Field of Play to the Match Official's satisfaction.

3.2.7. A player or Club Associate who is under suspension must not be present in the Technical Area. Should a player or Club Associate be in breach of this rule they will be subject to further penalties under the GDT.

3.3. Match Records

3.3.1. Clubs will be required to adhere to any requirements relating to the use of online match records, results reporting and match data recording, as prescribed by FV from time to time.

3.3.2. Clubs must list on the Match Record all players taking part in a Competition Fixture and must produce a Match Record to the Match Official not less than:

a. in the case of senior match fixtures (VPLW, Men's State League & Womens State League), 60 minutes before the commencement of any FV Competition Fixture; or

b. all other FV fixtures, 30 minutes prior to the commencement of the fixture.

3.3.3. If a Club disagrees with any of the details on a Match Record prior to the commencement of the fixture, the fixture must still take place as per the fixtured start time and refer to Rule 3.3.5.

3.3.4. A Match Official has the discretion to amend a Match Record up until 30 minutes after the conclusion of the Competition Fixture. The Match Official must inform a representative of both teams who must sign the Match Record to confirm the amendment.

3.3.5. Subject to Rule 3.3.8, a Club may be charged with Misconduct if:

a. any player listed on the Match Record is ineligible in accordance with either these Rules or the GDT; or

b. more than 16 players are listed on the Match Record; or

c. it fails to list on the Match Record the shirt number, full name and FA ID number for each player, or adds players to the Match Record after submission to the Match Official without amending the Match Record in accordance with Rule 3.3.4, shall be processed in accordance with the terms of the GDT

3.3.6. A representative from each Team must sign the Match Record at the conclusion of the Competition Fixture and should do so only after the appointed Match Official has recorded all outstanding details.

3.3.7. If a Club disagrees with any of the details on a Match Record (either its own or the opposition's), the Club must sign and indicate any disputed information by circling the detail in question and submit via the Post Match Submission Form on the FV website.

Only the following information can be disputed:

a. Goal Scorers;

b. Red and Yellow Cards;

c. Final score; or

d. Player eligibility.

3.3.8. Match Record Disputes will only be investigated by FV in the following circumstances:

a. the Match Record and a request to conduct a match investigation is lodged with FV within 7 days of the Competition Fixture; and

b. the following evidence is submitted by the Club in support of its request for a match investigation:

(i) full Match Record;

(ii) video and/or photographic evidence;

(iii) statutory Declaration(s); and

(iv) any other information accepted from the Club at the discretion of FV.

3.3.9. FV may extend or abridge the deadline referred to in Rule 3.3.8. at its discretion.

3.3.10. FV reserves the right to amend the Match Records and will only be amended if FV is satisfied that there was no malice or intent to gain an advantage. In this instance, Clubs may not be charged with Misconduct as per Rule 3.3.5 and FV's decision is final in this regard and is not appealable.

3.3.11. For all fixtures that use match record books, once signed by all parties at the conclusion of the Competition Fixture, each Club must make a copy of its Match Record available to the opposing Team.

3.3.12. For fixtures that use online match records (VPLW, WSL & MSL), Clubs must take visible photos of both team sheets post-match once all information has been verified.

3.4. Ground Marshals

3.4.1. Each Club must provide the number of marshals (Ground Marshals) directed by FV.

3.4.2. Ground Marshals must:

a. be at least 18 years old and provide the Match Official with their name;

b. be in a clearly identifiable uniform;

c. be visible from the Field of Play at all times;

d. escort the Match Official(s) to and from the change rooms and the Field of Play at the commencement of the Competition Fixture, at half time and at full time; and

e. where required, assist the Match Officials(s) to ensure a safe playing environment for all players, Club Officials and spectators.

3.4.3. Match Officials must not leave their dressing rooms to enter the Field of Play or return to their rooms from the Field of Play until the identifiable Ground Marshals are present.

Table 3.4. – Minimum Number of Ground Marshals for all Competition Fixtures

League	Minimum Number of Ground Marshals
MSL1, MSL2, MSL3	4
MSL4 & MSL5	2
Men's Metropolitan League and Metropolitan Masters League	2
VPLW / Women's State Leagues	2
Junior competitions	2
All other competitions	2

3.4.4. FV may vary the minimum Ground Marshal requirements for any Competition Fixture at any time.

3.4.5. Ground Marshal numbers may be varied in line with FV's Risk Assessment and Security Policy

3.4.6. Each home and away Club is required to provide 50% of the required Ground Marshals for each Competition Fixture, failure to do so may result in Misconduct under the GDT.

3.4.7. Clubs must ensure the FV Ground Marshal Handbook is provided to relevant persons prior to completing the duty.

3.5. Player's Strip / Apparel

3.5.1. *Clothing*

a. All Teams must nominate a 'Home' and 'Alternate' playing strip. The Club's 'Home' and 'Alternate' playing strips must be entered into FV's online competition management system (SportsTG) or provided to FV if requested at least 10 days prior to Round 1 of the Regular Season or the Club in question may incur a penalty under the GDT.

b. All playing strips must be approved by FV.

c. Any change to playing strips during the season must be updated on Sports TG and communicated to FV 5 working days prior to the Club's next Competition Fixture

d. Predominantly black playing shirts will not be permitted under any circumstances.

e. The Home Club in each Competition Fixture is required to wear their nominated 'Home' playing strip.

f. In the instance of a playing strip clash between the home and away Team as determined by the Match Official, the away Team is required to provide a sufficiently alternate playing strip.

g. In the instance of a playing strip not being available to a club, it will be deemed the responsibility of the club to ascertain written consent from the opposing club to avoid any playing strip clash. This written agreement must be sent to FV prior to the fixture.

h. The purpose of Rule 3.5 is to ensure that the two Clubs wear playing strips that distinguish them from each other and also the Match Officials. Clubs and Match Officials should refer to the following table to determine whether or not a strip clash exists. The table lists which items of the strip are permitted to clash for different Divisions/Leagues:

Table 3.5. – Clashes and Permissions

	MSL	VPLW/WSL	JUNIORS	METRO & MASTERS
Playing Shirt	No Clash Permitted	No Clash Permitted	No Clash Permitted	No Clash Permitted
Shorts	Clash Permitted	Clash Permitted	Clash Permitted	Clash Permitted
Socks	No Clash Permitted	No Clash Permitted	Clash Permitted	Clash Permitted

i. All playing shirts must have a visible number on the back of the shirt.

j. All playing numbers displayed on shirts must be unique within the Team.

k. A Club may be penalised in accordance with Rule 1.4.6 if:

(i) a Competition Fixture does not commence due to an inability to resolve a clash of strips, and it can be established that such Club or Team did not comply with Rule 3.5.1.d, or

(ii) a Club changes their home playing strip without notifying FV Competitions via competitions@footballvictoria.com.au by no later than five days (5) prior to Competition Fixture, and this change results in a Competition Fixture being postponed as a result of a strip clash.

l. Goalkeepers may wear any colour provided their strip does not clash with either Team or the Match Official.

m. All Clubs must have two (2) goalkeeper strips available at all home and away fixtures.

3.5.2. *Protective Gear*

a. Any player requiring vision correction should wear contact lenses, or wear spectacles that:

(i) are firmly secured with a sports band or adjustable strap.

(ii) have purpose-designed and closely fitted curled ends on the arms; or

(iii) are specially designed protective sports glasses constructed of plastic with rubberised cushioning and no metallic parts.

3.5.3. Players Equipment must be in line with IFAB Laws of the Game.

3.6. Stretchers / First Aid

3.6.1. Each Home Club must allocate one (1) stretcher suitable for first aid and emergency use for each pitch hosting a Competition Fixture.

3.6.2. Each Home Club must provide a First Aid Kit including, but not limited to:

a. Band Aids;

b. Bandages; and

c. Ice Pack (or other available ice).

d. Must provide a hospital register clearly visible in the first aid and match officials room.

3.7. Smoking / Drinking at Venues

3.7.1. It is prohibited for anyone to smoke or consume alcohol within the confines of the Field of Play.

3.7.2. Clubs are responsible for ensuring that smoking and drinking alcohol are confined to licensed and permitted areas. Clubs should be familiar with and refer to State legislation regarding current smoking laws.

3.8. National Flags, Slogans & Emblems

3.8.1. Clubs must comply at all times with the FA Diversity & Inclusion Policy

3.8.2. All Clubs must have the prior written approval of FV before introducing or incorporating any design, emblem or slogan onto any Club logo or name, product or medium,

including but not limited to playing strips, promotional material, Club letterhead, banners, advertisements, public announcements, website or any other form of communication.

3.8.3. FV may require the immediate removal of any offending material at any time.

3.9. Lighting Standards

3.9.1. Clubs wishing to play Competition Fixtures under lights must ensure that lighting for those Competition Fixtures complies with FV's Football Lighting Policy referred to as Rule 9.



4. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

4.1. Duration of Competition Fixtures

4.1.1. *Periods of Play*

a. All Competition Fixtures will be played over Normal Time as specified in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1. – Competition Fixtures Normal Time

Age Group	Duration of Competition Fixtures – Normal Time
Under Twelve (12) Boys	2 x 30 minute halves (= 60 minutes)
Under Thirteen (13) Boys	2 x 30 minute halves (= 60 minutes)
Under Fourteen (14) Boys	2 x 30 minute halves (= 60 minutes)
Under Fifteen (15) Boys	2 x 35 minute halves (= 70 minutes)
Under Sixteen (16) Boys	2 x 40 minute halves (= 80 minutes)
Under Seventeen (17) Boys	2 x 40 minute halves (= 80 minutes)
Under Eighteen (18) Boys	2 x 45 minute halves (= 90 minutes)
Under Twenty (20) Boys	2 x 45 minute halves (= 90 minutes)
Under Twenty (21) Boys	2 x 45 minute halves (= 90 minutes)
Under Twelve (12) Girls	2 x 30 minute halves (= 60 minutes)
Under Thirteen (13) Girls	2 x 30 minute halves (= 60 minutes)
Under Fourteen (14) Girls	2 x 30 minute halves (= 60 minutes)
Under Fifteen (15) Girls	2 x 35 minute halves (= 70 minutes)
Under Sixteen (16) – Seventeen (17) Girls	2 x 40 minute halves (= 80 minutes)
Under Eighteen (19) Girls	2 x 45 minute halves (= 90 minutes)
Senior Women's	2 x 45 minute halves (= 90 minutes)
Senior Men's	2 x 45 minute halves (= 90 minutes)

b. Periods of play for specific competitions may be altered by FV provided they are implemented throughout the age group or competition.

c. Prior to the commencement of the Competition Fixture, the Match Official may reduce the length of each half if in the Match Official's opinion playing conditions compromise player safety or to prevent the delay to the commencement of any subsequent Competition Fixture from its scheduled kick off time only if:

(i) it is in line with IFAB rules; and

(ii) he or she has notified the Coach/Team Manager of each participating Team.

4.1.2. *Commencement Time*

a. Teams must be ready to begin playing by the stated kick off time.

b. If either Team is not ready to begin playing within 15 minutes of the scheduled kick off time the Match Official may determine the Competition Fixture as Abandoned in accordance with Rule 4.2.

c. In circumstances where both Teams and the Match Official agree, the Competition Fixture may commence up to 30 minutes after the scheduled kick off time, provided it does not delay the kick off of subsequent Competition Fixtures either at that venue or to which the Match Official is also appointed on that day.

4.1.3. *Half Time Interval*

a. The half-time interval must be a minimum of 5 minutes and no longer than 15 minutes in duration for all competitions except for the Under 12 & Under 13 competitions.

b. The half-time interval must be a minimum of 5 minutes and no longer than 10 minutes in duration for the Under 12 & Under 13 competitions.

4.2. Abandoned Competition Fixtures

4.2.1. Competition Fixtures may only be abandoned by a decision of the Match Official.

4.2.2. The Competition Fixture may be abandoned for any, but not limited to, of the following reasons:

a. if either Team has its playing numbers reduced for any reason below the minimum IFAB requirement of seven (7) players;

b. if the lighting at the venue fails such that in the opinion of the Match Official it is impossible or unsafe to continue to play;

c. if the Match Official determines that playing conditions have become unsafe or untenable for any reason;

d. if the Match Official, in consultation with security staff and ground marshals where applicable, determines that the conditions for players, coaches, Match Officials or supporters have become unsafe or untenable for any reason;

e. if one or both of the Teams is not ready to commence the Competition Fixture within 15 minutes of the scheduled kick-off time; or

f. in accordance with Rule 4.4.

4.2.3. If a Competition Fixture is abandoned due to a matter set out in Rule 4.4.2, FV may determine one of the following outcomes of the Competition Fixture at its absolute and sole discretion:

a. If 80 per cent or more of the Normal Time of a Competition Fixture has been played then the score at the time of abandonment may stand. 'Played' in the context of this Rule will be determined by FV in consultation with the Match Official.

b. If a competition fixture has been abandoned after between 60% and 80% of the Normal Time of a Competition Fixture has been played and the goal difference between the two teams exceeds 4 or more goals, FV may determine that the result be maintained at the time of abandonment. E.g. 4-0, 5-1, 6-2.

c. Competition Fixture to be replayed in full.

d. Competition Fixture to be awarded as a 'No Result'.

e. Competition Fixture result is 0-0.

f. Competition Fixture result is 3-0 to the non-offending Team, unless the goal difference at the time of abandonment was greater and in favour of the non-offending Team, in which case the greater result will stand. In determining what is a 'greater' result, FV will give preference to goals FOR in the first instance (i.e. 4-1 will be considered a 'greater' result than 3-0).

g. Competition Fixture to be replayed from the time at which the original Competition Fixture was abandoned. In the event a Competition Fixture is replayed in accordance with this Rule:

(i) The score at the time of the abandonment remains the score at the time the Competition Fixture recommences; and

(ii) Only players listed on the Match Record for the initial Competition Fixture between the two sides will be eligible to compete in the recommenced Competition Fixture, unless FV determines that additional players are eligible (for example, in the case of player injury with supporting medical documentation); and

(iii) FV will determine what, if any, further substitutions are allowed by each Team during the recommenced Competition Fixture, giving consideration to the number of substitutions made in the Competition Fixture before it was originally abandoned (including which players may take the Field of Play or be substituted on).

(iv) FV will determine at its absolute sole discretion the date time and venue for the recommenced fixture, this decision will be deemed final and not subject to appeal.

(v) Player, coach or team unavailability resulting in team non-participation in the recommenced fixture will result in a 3-0 forfeit to the offending team.

h. Competition Fixture result at time of abandonment shall stand.

4.2.4. Any Club or Club Associate found to be responsible either in whole or in part for the abandonment of a Competition Fixture may be subject to penalties under the GDT.

4.2.5. When a Competition Fixture is abandoned:

a. after commencement of the Competition Fixture, all Match Officials are entitled to receive 100% of their normal match fee; or

b. prior to commencement of the Competition Fixture, all Match Officials are entitled to receive 50% of their normal match fee if the Match Official(s) were present at the venue when the Competition Fixture was due to commence.

4.2.6. Match Officials may not claim more than one (1) postponed match fee from one venue on one day.

4.2.7. If a Competition Fixture is abandoned by the Match Official, both the Match Official and the Home Club must notify FV by close of business on the next working day that the Competition Fixture has been abandoned.

4. FIXTURE DETAILS

4.3. Postponed/Rescheduled Competition Fixtures

4.3.1. Competition Fixtures may only be postponed or rescheduled by appointed Match Officials or FV competitions staff.

4.3.2. FV may reschedule Competition Fixtures at its discretion. In exercising that discretion, FV:

a. is not subject to the deadlines or timeframes set out in Rule 4.7; and

b. will take into consideration all relevant circumstances including but not limited to league standings and the scheduling of Cup Fixtures.

c. will not compensate any clubs due to the rescheduling of Competition Fixtures.

4.3.3. FV will determine the new time and date for the playing of a postponed/rescheduled Competition Fixture. Such decision is not open to appeal or review. Clubs are obliged to fulfill any postponed or rescheduled Competition Fixture as determined by FV and any Club which fails to do so will automatically forfeit the Competition Fixture and may be subject to penalty under the GDT.

4.3.4. Player, coach, or team unavailability resulting in team non-participation in the rescheduled fixture will result in a 3-0 forfeit to the offending team.

4.3.5. Any postponed or abandoned Competition Fixture that requires rescheduling will be rescheduled to the next available catch-up round or midweek at FV's discretion.

4.3.6. Any Competition Fixture scheduled by FV to be replayed must be completed by no later than one (1) week after the conclusion of the Regular Season unless otherwise approved or directed by FV in writing. FV may record the result of any Competition Fixture not completed within this time frame as a 'No Result'.

4.3.7. Any Club Associate or Club found guilty of rearranging a Competition Fixture or requesting the appointment of Match Officials outside a set kick-off time or date will be subject to Misconduct charges under the GDT. FV may also record the final score of any such Competition Fixture as a 'No Result'.

4.3.8. In the event of a postponed or abandoned Competition Fixture which is required to be replayed, Clubs may, within five (5) business days from the originally scheduled Competition Fixture, arrange an alternate date and venue. The date must fall within the Regular Season. Both date and venue must be approved by FV. If no venue and date is approved by FV, the Competition Fixture will be rescheduled at FV's discretion.

4.3.9. Player, coach, or team unavailability resulting in team non-participation in the rescheduled fixture will result in a 3-0 forfeit to the offending team.

4.4. Weather Conditions

4.4.1. FV and/or the Match Official may postpone, delay or abandon any Competition Fixture due to weather and/or pitch conditions such as but not limited to excessive heat/humidity, lightning or rain that may endanger participants' health and/or safety.

4.4.2. Refer to the FV Extreme Weather Policy for all rules and guidelines regarding extreme weather conditions.

4. FIXTURE DETAILS

4.5. Match Points

4.5.1. In all Competition Fixtures, match points will be awarded as follows:

Result	Match Points Awarded
WIN	Three (3) points
DRAW	One (1) point
LOSS	Zero (0) points
FORFEIT	Three-nil loss
NO RESULT	Zero (0) points and zero (0) goals awarded to either team

4.5.2. FV reserves the right to record any Competition Fixture as a 'No Result' if the circumstances require or as a result of a breach of these Rules.

4.5.3. At the end of the Regular Season, all Teams will be ranked from highest to lowest by virtue of the total number of match points received.

4.5.4. If more than one (1) Team finishes the Regular Season on the same number of points, their final position will be determined as follows:

a. The Team with the greatest Goal Difference will finish higher.

b. If Goal Difference is the same, then the Team that has scored the most goals FOR will be deemed to have finished higher.

c. If Goal Difference is the same and goals FOR is the same, then the final order will be determined by the aggregate results of Competition Fixtures played between those Teams for the current season (excluding Cup Fixtures).

d. if the aggregate scores between the Teams are the same, then AWAY goals will count as double.

4.5.5. If more than one (1) Team has the identical number of Rule 4.5.4 then those Teams will be deemed to have tied.

4.5.6. If the final standing in any League is affected by a tie in accordance with Rule 4.5.5 so that it has a bearing on promotion or relegation to another League, Finals or Playoffs, then FV may fixture a Play Off Match between the tied Teams in accordance with these Rules to separate them.

4.6. Non- Participation in a Competition Fixture (unless not permitted to do so as a direct result of Protocols issued by the Australian Government or Victorian Government)

4.6.1. Clubs/Teams are obliged to participate in all Competition Fixtures. Any Club/Team which fails to do so may be subject to Misconduct under the GDT.

4.6.2. If both Clubs/Teams refuse to play or are not ready to commence the Competition Fixture as scheduled (refer to Rule 4.2.2.e), FV may award a 'No Result'.

4.6.3. In the event of forfeit without adequate notification to FV, the payment of any Match Official fees is entirely (100%) the responsibility of the non-participating Club. The payment will be shared (50%) if both Clubs do not (or are not ready to) participate in the Competition Fixture.

4.6.4. Non-participation and forfeit fines for specific competitions may be altered by FV provided that they are implemented throughout the competition.

4.6.5. When insufficient players are available for a Competition Fixture, a senior Team within a Club must take priority over a reserve Team. Failure to field a senior team may result in a 3 – 0 forfeit for both the seniors and reserves fixtures.

4.6.6. Any Team which fails to participate in three (3) Competition Fixtures within a Regular Season may be removed from its League at FV's discretion.

4.6.7. If a Club's reserves Team fails to participate in three (3) Competition Fixtures, FV may, at its discretion, remove the Club's senior Team from its League during the Regular Season.

4.6.8. Where the Australian Federal Government or Victorian State Government issues protocols or directions that prevent a Competition Fixture from taking place, the sanctions outlined in this clause 4.6 will not apply.

4.7. Change of Venue/Fixture Requests by Club

4.7.1. *Change of Venue Requests*

a. Change of venue requests may only be made on the basis of perceived unplayable pitch or venue conditions, or to relocate a Competition Fixture to an improved facility.

b. A written request, including booking confirmation, to relocate a Competition Fixture to an improved facility must be received by FV no less than 14 days prior to the scheduled Competition Fixture. FV shall consider factors such as maintaining kick off times, relative distance to travel and the quality of the facility and playing surface when considering such requests. Any request that involves a change to kick-off times or dates will be subject to Rule 4.7.2.

c. Any change request based on deteriorating pitch or venue conditions may be considered with supporting evidence provided within the 14-day period prior to the Competition Fixture at the discretion of FV.

4.7.2. *Fixture Date/Time Change Requests*

a. FV will consider a fixture change request by a Club if the request is received no less than 14 days prior to the fixture with written consent provided to FV by Club Officials of both Clubs. Exemptions may be granted for Rounds 1-3 (and 4-5 for Leagues which have been subject to regrading).

b. No date or time change request will be accepted for the final round of any Men's or Women's VPLW or State League fixture.

c. Scheduled FV competition catch-up and Cup Fixture rounds will only be used in the case of postponed or abandoned Competition Fixtures.

d. Exemption from Rule 4.7.2.c may only be made if;

(i) a request is made in accordance with Rule 4.7.2.a; and

(ii) five (5) days prior to the catch-up or Cup Fixture round neither Club is involved in any other Competition Fixture being played in that catch-up or Cup Fixture round.

4.7.3. Rules 4.7.1 and 4.7.2 do not apply to Finals or Play Off Matches.

4.7.4. Any decision to reschedule a Competition Fixture (or otherwise) under Rule 4.7 is subject to FV's right to reschedule a Competition Fixture in accordance with Rule 4.3.2.

4.7.5. FV decisions in relation to rescheduling of Competition Fixtures are final and binding on all parties and are not subject to appeal.

4.7.6. FV holds ultimate power and sole discretion over the fixturing of Competition Fixtures.



5. MATCH OFFICIALS

5.1. Match Official Fees

5.1.1. FV will endeavour to appoint a Match Official to each Competition Fixture, subject to availability and applicable fixture schedule.

5.1.2. 2021 Match Official fees are set out on the FV website and will apply for the duration of the Regular Season, although will be subject to change at any time.

5.1.3. Unless otherwise stated in the Competition Regulations, payment in cash or cheque of all Match Official fees must be made by the Home Club on the day of the Competition Fixture.

5.1.4. If payment is made by cheque, and that cheque is subsequently dishonoured, the Club will be invoiced for the outstanding amount plus any costs reasonably incurred by FV as a result of the cheque being dishonoured.

5.1.5. If a Competition Fixture is abandoned or postponed, all Match Officials are entitled to receive match fees in accordance with Rule 4.2.5.

5.2. Assistant Match Officials

5.2.1. Where available, two (2) assistant Match Officials shall be appointed to a Competition Fixture to assist the Match Official.

5.2.2. If insufficient assistant Match Officials have been appointed, each Team must provide an assistant Match Official. Failure to comply will result in a forfeit by the Team which fails to provide an assistant.

5.3. Assistant Match Officials

5.3.1. If the Match Official fails to honour his or her appointment, the next most senior Match Official (**Replacement**) will take charge of the Competition Fixture.

5.3.2. If the Match Official is late arriving at a Competition Fixture, the Replacement will take charge until the Match Official is ready to take over.

5.3.3. If no registered Match Official is present to act as the Replacement ten (10) minutes prior to scheduled start of the Competition Fixture, both Clubs shall agree on a person to act as the Match Official for the Competition Fixture, or until the appointed Match Official arrives. If, by the scheduled kick off time, no agreement can be reached, the Home Club must appoint a person to act as the Match Official for the Competition Fixture. If the match is not played due to the away team disputing the match official appointment, the away team may be deemed to have caused the abandonment of the competition fixture.

5.3.4. If a Competition Fixture does not kick off within 15 minutes of the scheduled kick off time due to the absence of a Match Official, the Home Club may be deemed to have forfeited the Competition Fixture.

5.3.5. All Clubs must fulfil all Competition Fixtures, regardless of whether or not the FV appointed Match Official is present to take charge. Failure to do so may result in a penalty under the GDT.

5. MATCH OFFICIALS

5.4. Decisions of the Match Official

5.4.1. The decisions of the Match Official(s) about any fact connected with play are final and cannot be disputed by any party.

5.5. Pitch and Facility Inspection Report

5.5.1. At the conclusion of each Competition Fixture, the Match Official must complete a Pitch & Facility Inspection Report where necessary, and then ensure all relevant Competition Fixture documentation is lodged with FV within two (2) days.

5.6. Match Records and Misconduct Reports

5.6.1. At the conclusion of each Competition Fixture, the Match Official shall consult with his or her assistant Match Officials, where appointed, and confirm the accuracy of all Competition Fixture information before completing each Team's Match Record.

5.6.2. Match Records must be submitted via the Online Post Match Submission Form or via Sports TG Online Match Record process for relevant leagues (VPLW, WSL, MSL) and:

a. submitted by the Match Official to FV in relation to all Men's and Women's VPLW and State League Competition Fixtures (seniors and reserves); and

b. retained by all Match Officials and Clubs in relation to each Competition Fixture for a minimum of 2 years from the end of the Regular Season in which the Competition Fixture took place, and a copy submitted to FV if requested.

5.6.3. Match Records required to be submitted to FV in accordance with Rule 5.6.2 must be submitted within 48 hours of the completion of the relevant Competition Fixture for fixtures that use match record books and within 24 hours of the completion of the relevant Competition Fixture for Men's and Womens VPLW and State League Competition Fixtures (in accordance with Rule 5.6.2.a) or a request from FV (in accordance with Rule 5.6.2.b).

5.6.4. Misconduct Reports must be submitted in accordance with the requirements set out in the GDT.

5.7. Player Safety and Blood Rule

5.7.1. The Match Official must ensure that any player who suffers an injury or wound which results in the loss of blood leaves the pitch immediately for the purpose of receiving medical attention and for the safety of other players.

5.7.2. The Match Official may allow the injured player to re-join the Competition Fixture only after the Match Official is satisfied that the injury or wound has been safely covered and contained.

5.7.3. If a player's uniform or attire has blood on it, the Match Official may require the player to change his or her attire before re-joining the Competition Fixture.

5.7.4. If the injured player is required to change his or her uniform, and a shirt displaying the same number as the original shirt is unavailable, the Match Official may allow the player to wear an alternative numbered, or blank, playing shirt.

5. MATCH OFFICIALS

5.8. Match Reporting

5.8.1. Match Officials must enter all match results & player data in accordance with Rule 1.11.3.

5.8.2. Match Officials will be required to adhere to any requirements relating to the use of online match records, results reporting and match data recording, as prescribed by FV from time to time.



6. REGISTRATION

The Registration Process is set out in the **2021 FV Registration Regulations**.



7. CODES OF BEHAVIOUR

Please refer to **Schedule 5** which sets out all relevant Codes of Behaviour and Codes of Conduct applicable to FV competitions, Competition Fixtures, Clubs, players, Match Officials and Club Associates and Officials.



8. MINIMUM FACILITY REQUIREMENTS – COMMUNITY COMPETITIONS

Please refer to **Schedule 6** for all Minimum Facility Requirements - Community Competitions.



9. FOOTBALL LIGHTING POLICY & REQUIREMENTS

Applicable lighting standards and requirements for Competition Fixtures are set out in FV's Football Lighting Policy as published on the FV website and as amended from time to time.





2021 RULES OF COMPETITION

MENS STATE LEAGUE

FOOTBALL VICTORIA

PHOTO: THE MAN IN THE STANDS

SCHEDULE 1 – 2021 MEN'S COMPETITION REGULATIONS– MEN'S STATE LEAGUE

10. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

10.1. General Information

10.1.1. These Regulations shall apply to all Men's State League senior and reserve grade fixtures within the following metropolitan FV competitions.

League Name	Abbreviation	Number of Teams	Supporting League
Men's State League 1 North-West	MSL1NW	12	Reserves
Men's State League 1 South-East	MSL1SE	12	Reserves
Men's State League 2 North-West	MSL2NW	12	Reserves
Men's State League 2 South-East	MSL2SE	12	Reserves
Men's State League 3 North-West	MSL3NW	12	Reserves
Men's State League 3 South-East	MSL3SE	12	Reserves
Men's State League 4 East	MSL4E	12	Reserves
Men's State League 4 North	MSL4N	12	Reserves
Men's State League 4 South	MSL4S	12	Reserves
Men's State League 4 West	MSL4W	12	Reserves
Men's State League 5 East	MSL5E	6 – 22	Reserves
Men's State League 5 North	MSL5N	6 – 22	Reserves
Men's State League 5 South	MSL5S	6 – 22	Reserves
Men's State League 5 West	MSL5W	6 – 22	Reserves

10.1.2. Subject to these Rules and Regulations at the end of the Regular Season, including any Finals or Play Off Matches, the final standings of each League will determine which Clubs have earned the right to be promoted or relegated between Divisions. A Club that earns the right to be promoted shall only be promoted for the following season provided it:

a. has no outstanding debts to FV;

b. has complied with any Rules or Regulations for Clubs participating in the relevant League or Division including but not limited to those relating to facility and pitch requirements by the date prescribed by FV from time to time; and

c. is not otherwise in breach of these Rules and Regulations or any other requirements of FV.

10.1.3. All senior and reserves Teams will play on the same day with all reserve Competition Fixtures played as a curtain raiser to the senior Competition Fixture on that day, unless otherwise determined by FV.

10.1.4. Subject to Rule 10.1.5, no Club may enter more than one (1) Team (including reserves) in Men's State League competitions.

10.1.5. Melbourne University Soccer Club is permitted to field two different Teams in the Men's State League competitions (under the names Melbourne University Soccer Club and University of Melbourne Soccer Club) provided that:

a. Those Teams are not permitted to compete in the same League;

b. Should one of those Teams cease to participate in Men's State League competitions (for any reason), that Team will not be permitted to re-enter Men's State League competitions without first establishing a Club independent of Melbourne University.

c. Once a player plays one (1) Competition Fixture for one (1) of the Teams fielded by either Melbourne University Soccer Club or University of Melbourne Soccer Club during a Regular Season, that player will immediately become ineligible to play for the other Team during that Regular Season (including Play Off and Finals matches).

10.1.6. To be eligible to participate in senior men's competitions run by FV, players must be 15 years of age (or older) as at 1 January 2021, unless an application to FV for exemption from Rule 10.1.6 is made by the player's Club on behalf of a player and is approved by FV.

10.1.7. An application made under Rule 10.1.6 must meet the following minimum criteria:

a. The application must be supported by a signed letter from the player's Club president supporting the application;

b. The application must be supported by a signed letter from the player's State Team/Representative Team coach or Club Technical Director;

c. The application must be supported by a signed letter of consent from the player's parent or guardian supporting the application;

d. The application must be supported by a signed letter of support from the player's medical professional listing general medical details of the player including height and weight and;

e. The Club/player must provide FV with any further information requested.

10.1.8. An application made under Rule 10.1.6 will be considered by the FV. FV has sole discretion in relation to any application made under that Rule.

10.2. Victorian Men's State Leagues

10.2.1. All Clubs participating in Divisions 1 to 5 of the Victorian Men's State Leagues must field a senior Team and a reserves Team.

10.2.2. By the commencement of the 2021 Regular Seasons for the competitions listed in sub-paragraphs a – e below, all Clubs participating in Divisions 1-3 of the Victorian Men's State Leagues must field and maintain not less than three (3) additional teams in FV competitions (other than their senior men and reserves Teams). Those Teams can be fielded in any of the following Leagues (or a combination thereof):

a. MiniRoos (Under 7s – U11s);

b. Juniors (Under 12s – U21s);

c. VPLW/ Women's State Leagues;

d. Metropolitan League;

e. Metropolitan Masters;

f. FV affiliated regional competitions; or

g. FV affiliated All Abilities Leagues.

10.2.3. A Club which fails to comply with Rule 10.2.2 may:

a. not be eligible for promotion at the end of the 2021 Regular Season; and

b. be subject to relegation from its current Division at the discretion of FV.

10.2.4. All Men's State League Teams in all divisions will play each other on a home and away basis over 22 Rounds unless otherwise determined by FV.

10.2.5. MSL1 Competition Fixtures will be played on Friday, Saturday, Sunday or Monday. FV may schedule MSL1 Competition Fixtures on other days as it deems necessary in the circumstances.

10.2.6. MSL2-5 Competition Fixtures will be played on Friday, Saturday or Monday. FV may schedule MSL2-5 Competition Fixtures on other days as it deems necessary in the circumstances.

10.2.7. Friday or Monday night Competition Fixtures:

a. may not kick off earlier than 6.15pm (reserves) or 8.30pm (seniors), unless either Competition Fixture has been rescheduled according to Rule 4.3 or as determined by FV at its absolute and sole discretion; and

b. cannot be scheduled if the distance between the home venues of the two (2) Teams exceeds 50km, unless upon written agreement of the two (2) Teams in question or as determined by FV at its absolute and sole discretion.

10.2.8. Saturday Competition Fixtures may not kick off earlier than 12.15pm (reserves) or 3.00pm (seniors), unless either Competition Fixture has been rescheduled according to Rule 4.3.

10.2.9. Saturday Competition Fixtures may not kick off later than 6.30pm (reserves) or 8.30pm (seniors), unless either Competition Fixture has been rescheduled according to Rule 4.3.

10.2.10. The applicable kick off times for Saturday Competition Fixtures apply to any Competition Fixtures held on public holidays.

10.2.11. Fixtures may only be played on public holidays with the permission of FV.

10.2.12. The Team finishing top of each League at the conclusion of the Regular Season will be crowned Champion and the second placed Team will be Runner-up.

10.2.13. All promotion and relegation Regulations outlined below are based on the continuation of the current FV competition structure for Victorian Men's State Leagues. FV reserves the right to alter any competition structure for the following Regular Season. Any vacancy created as a result of such a restructure may be filled in accordance with these Rules and Regulations.

10.2.14. All Victorian Men's State League Clubs are required to enter and participate in the FFA Cup and upon qualification the Dockerty Cup Semi Finals and Final. Failure to comply may result in a Club facing a penalty or other sanction for Misconduct under the GDT.

SCHEDULE 1 – 2021 MEN'S COMPETITION REGULATIONS – MEN'S STATE LEAGUES
10. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

10.3. Promotion and Relegation

10.3.1. Teams may be relegated from NPL3 to MSL1 in the following season as promulgated by FV from time to time.

10.3.2. The Champions and Runners up of each League of MSL1 (NW and SE) may be eligible for promotion from MSL1 to NPL3 in the following season, provided those Clubs meet the requirements outlined in the NPL3 license agreement as promulgated by FV from time to time.

10.3.3. To be eligible for promotion into NPL3 clubs will be required to adhere to the licensing requirements for that level of competition. FV reserves the right to review clubs who cannot meet the criteria. Clubs who breach or cannot meet the criteria may be fined, removed, or not offered a position into that tier of competition.

10.3.4. Those Clubs finishing in last place position of each League (NW and SE) of MSL1 may play-off following the conclusion of the regular season at a mutual venue determined by FV.

10.3.5. The winner of the competition fixture referred to in rule 10.3.4 may retain their position in MSL1 for the following season and the loser may be relegated to MSL2 for the following season.

10.3.6. The Champions and Runners-up of each League (NW and SE) of MSL2 may be eligible for promotion to MSL1 for the following season.

10.3.7. Those Clubs finishing in last position of each League of MSL2 (NW and SE) may play off following the conclusion of the regular season at a mutual venue determined by FV.

10.3.8. The winner of the competition fixture referred to in rule 10.3.7 may retain their position in MSL2 in the following season and the loser may be relegated to MSL3 in the following season.

10.3.9. The Champion and Runner-up of each League of MSL3 (NW and SE) may be eligible for promotion to MSL2 in the following season.

10.3.10. Those Clubs finishing in last position of each League of MSL3 (NW and SE) may playoff following the conclusion of the regular season at a mutual venue determined by FV.

10.3.11. The winner of the competition fixture referred to in rule 10.3.10 may retain their position in MSL3 in the following season and the loser may be relegated to MSL4 in the following season.

10.3.12. The Champion of each League of MSL4 (N, W, S and E) may be eligible for promotion to MSL3 in the following season.

10.3.13. Those Clubs finishing in last position of each League of MSL4 (N, W, S and E) may play off following the conclusion of the regular season at a mutual venue determined by FV (last position in North vs last position in West / last position in South vs last position in East)

10.3.14. The winning teams of the competition fixture referred to in rule 10.3.13 may retain their position in MSL4 and the losing teams may be relegated to MSL5 in the following season.

10.3.15. The Champion of each League of MSL5 (N, W, S and E) may be offered the opportunity to be promoted to MSL4 for the following season.

10.3.16. The Runner-up of MSL5 North shall play against the Runner-Up of MSL5 West. The winner may advance to play the winner of the MSL5 Runners-Up Play Off Match referred to in Rule 10.3.17.

10.3.17. The Runner-up of MSL5 South shall play against the Runner-Up of MSL5 East. The winner will advance to play the winner of the MSL5 Runners-Up Play Off Match as referred to in rule 10.3.16.

10.3.18. The winners of the Play Off Fixtures referred to in Rules 10.3.16 and 10.3.17 may playoff at a mutual venue determined by FV with the winner being eligible for promotion to MSL4 in the following season.

10.3.19. There may be relegation from MSL5 in the event of an increase in Teams necessitating the creation of a Men's State League 6 Division. Teams relegated to MSL6 will be determined by their previous season's final standings.

10.3.20. In leagues with a 'bye' the bye may not be included as a place in relation to the ladder standings.

10.3.21. A Club promoted or relegated in accordance with Rule 10.3 will not automatically be promoted or relegated into the corresponding League in the Division above or below. For example, a Club promoted from MSL5E will not automatically be promoted to MSL4E. Decisions regarding League positioning will be made by FV at its sole discretion and in the best interests of League and Division structures for the following season.

10.3.22. The selection of venues for the 2021 MSL Play Off matches will be determined at the absolute discretion of FV.

10.3.23. Promotion and relegation positions are at the sole discretion of FV and may be amended at any time prior to the commencement of the competition season, during the competition season or post competition season.

10.3.24. FV in its discretion may permit a club to self-relegate from their current MSL Competition for the following season provided it receives notification from the club no later than 28 days after the conclusion of the regular season.

10.3.25. FV will cover all Match Official Match Fees for all 2021 MSL1-5 Finals and Play Off matches.

10.4. Vacancies in Victorian Men's State League

10.4.1. From time to time vacancies are created in Men's State League Division due to:

a. Clubs not accepting the opportunity to be promoted;

b. a Team withdrawing from a MSL Division or League;

c. a Team being expelled from a MSL Division or League;

d. a Team being deemed ineligible for promotion as a result of a breach of these Rules and/or Regulations;

e. a Team being relegated as a result of a breach of these Rules and Regulations; or

f. other reasons from time to time.

10.4.2. If a vacancy is created in a Men's State League Division prior to the commencement of the Regular Season (whether that vacancy is created during the previous Regular Season or in the 'off-season' prior to the commencement of the Regular Season in question), FV shall have sole discretion when filling a vacancy. FV may choose to leave the vacancy and replace it with a bye, fill the vacancy as per Rule 10.4.3 or decide upon an alternate outcome in FV's sole discretion.

10.4.3. Vacancies created in accordance with Rules 10.4.1 and 10.4.2 may be filled in the following order of priority:

a. the highest finishing Team which is to be, or has been, relegated in accordance with these Regulations from the Division (refer to Rule 1.1.5.h) in which the vacancy arises;

b. if applicable, the highest finishing loser of the Play Off Final matches referred to in Rule 10.3.9, followed by the remaining loser of the Play Off Final matches referred to in Rule 10.3.9;

c. if applicable, the highest finishing loser of the Play Off Semi Final matches referred to in Rules 10.3.10and 10.3.11, followed by the remaining loser of the Play Off Semi Final matches referred to in Rules 10.3.10 and 10.3.11;

d. remaining Teams which are to be, or have been, relegated in accordance with these Regulations from the Division in which the vacancy arises in order of merit;

e. the highest finishing Team which misses out on promotion in accordance with these Regulations, from the Division below the Division in which the vacancy arises; and

f. remaining Teams which miss out on promotion in accordance with these Regulations, from the Division below the Division in which the vacancy arises in order of merit.

10.4.4. In deciding on order of merit for the purposes of Rule 10.4.3 or where two Teams are otherwise equal for the purposes of Rule 10.4.3, those Teams will be ranked according to the following (and in this order):

a. league finishing position for respective teams;

b. average points per game for the current Regular Season (i.e. the season before the Regular Season in which the vacancy needs to be filled);

c. average Goal Difference per game for the current regular season (ie the season before the regular season in which the vacancy needs to be filled);

d. average goals FOR per game for the current Regular Season (i.e. the season before the Regular Season in which the vacancy needs to be filled);

e. the Team and the Club's disciplinary record for the current Regular Season (i.e. the season before the Regular Season in which the vacancy needs to be filled).

10.4.5. If Teams cannot be separated under Rule 10.4.4 then those Teams will be required to play a Play Off Match in circumstances where they both seek promotion to the higher Division in question.

10.4.6. FV, at its discretion, may decide not to fill a vacancy in Men's State League competition especially when by doing so would disrupt lower Leagues and Divisions, for example where a League vacancy is created in close proximity to the start of the relevant Regular Season.

SCHEDULE 1 – 2021 MEN'S COMPETITION REGULATIONS – MEN'S STATE LEAGUES
10. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

10.5. New Entries and 'Byes'

10.5.1. All Clubs may apply for entry into Men's State Leagues. FV will determine all applications in its absolute discretion and its decision is not appealable.

10.5.2. Any Club entering a new Team into Men's State Leagues will be automatically placed into the lowest Division available (currently MSL5) unless otherwise determined by FV.

10.5.3. In the event a Team withdraws from any League of Men's State Leagues creating an uneven number of matches per Team throughout that Regular Season, FV may organise and schedule additional Competition Fixtures, alter the current season fixture or remove Competition Fixtures to produce an even number of matches for each Team.



11. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

11.1. Substitution

11.1.1. Each senior Team may make up to three (3) substitutions in any Competition Fixture, with no more than five (5) substitutes permitted to be named on the Match Record.

11.1.2. All Teams competing in reserves Competition Fixtures are permitted to name five (5) and use all five (5) substitutes throughout that Competition Fixture.

11.1.3. All substitutes must be seated within the Technical Area.

11.2. Match Balls

11.2.1. The Home Club shall provide the Match Official with three (3) match balls (size 5) no later than 30 minutes prior to the start of the scheduled Competition Fixture.

11.2.2. All Clubs must use a licensed match ball from one (1) of FV's licensed ball manufacturers as advised by FV from time to time.

For season 2021 the ball manufacturers include;

- Adidas

- Deploy Sports Group

- Icon Sports

- Mitre

- Nike- Team Sports Australasia

- UHLSport

Please see link below for contact details;
https://www.footballvictoria.com.au/about/partners

11.2.3. Any breach of the match ball licensing arrangements must be reported to FV by the Match Official.

11.2.4. A failure to comply with Regulation 11.2 may result in a fine as set out in the GDT.

11.3. Results of Competition Fixtures

11.3.1. *State League Seniors and Reserves – Minimum Requirements to be entered by the Home Club if no match official is present at the fixture.*

a. Home Team

(i) Half Time Score

(ii) Full Time Score

(iii) Home Team Player List

(iv) Home Team Goal Scorers

(v) Home Team Cautions

b. Away Team

(i) Away Team Player List

(ii) Away Team Goal Scorers

(iii) Away Team Cautions

11.3.2. *Results*

a. All results including goal scorers, substitutions and cautions shall be submitted by the match official no more than 90 minutes following the conclusion of the Competition Fixture.

b. All player lists must be submitted by the home/away team prior to the commencement of the match as part of the online match record process.

11.3.3. All results, cautions, substitutions (MSL only) best and fairest votes, reporting and player lists and goal scorers must be submitted via SportsTG.

11.3.4. Clubs which fail to submit results, cautions and goal scorers (when requested or when a match official is not present) or player lists prior to the match commencing on the online match records template in accordance with Rule 11.3 may be fined or otherwise penalised for Misconduct under the GDT.



12. FIXTURE DETAILS

12.1. Admittance to Competition Fixtures

12.1.1. *Team Admittance Passes*

a. MSL 1 – 3 Clubs will be provided with 50 admittance passes for season 2021.

b. Admittance passes must be displayed upon entry by the visiting Team's players on the day of the Competition Fixture.

c. Admittance passes only entitle the bearer admittance to the Division in which the player or Club is participating in that Regular Season.

d. In the event of any Competition Fixture for which admission cannot be charged (such as junior fixtures) and a MSL1-3 Competition Fixture being played at the same venue on the same day, no persons attending for the purpose of the non MSL1-3 Competition Fixture can be charged for entry into the venue.

12.1.2. *Admittance Prices*

Admittance prices for the 2021 season will be as follows. Please note that Clubs may only charge the full amount (GST Incl.) if they are registered for GST.

a. MSL1

Category	Admittance Price
Adults	$7.00 (inclusive of GST)
Students/ Pensioners/ Concession Holders	$4.00 (inclusive of GST)
Holders of current FV Media Passes and current FA Media Passes	FREE
Current FV Special Pass Holders	FREE
Under 14	FREE

b. MSL2

Category	Admittance Price
Adults	$6.00 (inclusive of GST)
Students/ Pensioners/ Concession Holders	$3.00 (inclusive of GST)
Holders of current FV Media Passes and current FA Media Passes	FREE
Current FV Special Pass Holders	FREE
Under 14	FREE

c. MSL3

Category	Admittance Price
Adults	$5.00 (inclusive of GST)
Students/ Pensioners/ Concession Holders	$3.00 (inclusive of GST)
Holders of current FV Media Passes and current FA Media Passes	FREE
Current FV Special Pass Holders	FREE
Under 14	FREE

d. MSL4 & MSL5

No admission fees may be charged

12.1.3. *Car Parking*

No Club may charge for car parking at any Men's State League Competition Fixture.

12.2. Media and Other Passes

12.2.1. FV may withdraw an FV Media Pass at any time.

12.2.2. No Club may refuse entry to a holder of a current FV Season or FA Media Pass without FV's prior written consent, or unless this person demonstrates an immediate security threat.



13. MATCH OFFICIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

13.1. Best and Fairest Votes

13.1.1. At the conclusion of each senior Competition Fixture, the Match Official must complete the Best and Fairest Votes and submit those votes to FV through the Online Match Record process within 24 hours.

13.1.2. All votes must be recorded on Sports TG as part of the online match records process.

13.1.3. All votes must be treated with the highest confidentiality.

13.1.4. Votes shall be cast in a 3-2-1 format with three (3) votes given to the player adjudged by the Match Official to be the best and fairest in each Competition Fixture.

13.1.5. A failure to comply with Rule 0.13.1 may result in a Match Official being suspended from officiating or demoted to a lower panel.

13.1.6. A player who receives a Suspension (as defined in the GDT) in a Competition Fixture during the Regular Season (excluding Play Off and Finals matches) shall be ineligible to win a Best and Fairest award in any given Regular Season. To avoid doubt this includes but is not limited to a player who receives ten (10) Yellow Cards or more in a Regular Season.

13.1.7. A player who has a Direct Red Card revoked for mistaken identity shall be otherwise eligible to win a Best and Fairest award.

13.1.8. Best and Fairest awards will not apply in reserves Leagues.

13.1.9. In the event of no FV appointed Match Official, no Best and Fairest votes will be awarded for that Competition Fixture.

13.1.10. If two (2) or more Players have the same number of Best and Fairest votes at the conclusion of the Regular Season, multiple Best and Fairest winners will be awarded for those League(s).

13.1.11. Players that have played at more than one Club or have played in more than one League in the 2021 season will have goals and/or votes recognised as follows:

a. Votes and/or goals in multiple Leagues: The player's goals and/or votes earned in each League will be considered separate and do not carry over, irrespective of whether they were earned with the same Club or after transferring from one Club to another.

Example 1: Votes awarded to a player in MSL1NW cannot be counted in the final tally for the Best and Fairest Award for MSL2SE in that Regular Season.

b. Votes and/or goals at multiple Clubs in the same League: Subject to Rules 2.1.3 and 2.1.4, if a player plays for more than one Club in the same League in the same Regular Season, the player's goals/votes are tallied together, however the player will only be recognised in terms of his award as a player for the Club at which the player finishes the Regular Season.

Example 2: Votes awarded to the same player whilst playing for multiple Clubs in MSL3NW will be tallied together for the purposes of the Best and Fairest Award for MSL3NW in that Regular Season.

14. MEN'S STATE LEAGUES FINALS SERIES

14.1. Competition Format

14.1.1. MSL1-5 Divisions and Leagues will conclude the Regular Season with a Finals/Playoff series.

14.1.2. The champion of MSL1 South-East will play the champion of MSL1 North-West to determine the State League 1 champion.

14.1.3. The champion of MSL2 South-East will play the champion of MSL2 North-West to determine the State League 2 champion.

14.1.4. The champion of MSL3 South-East will play the champion of MSL3 North-West to determine the State League 3 champion.

14.1.5. The champion of MSL4 South will play the champion of MSL4 East to qualify for the State League 4 Grand Final.

14.1.6. The champion of MSL4 North will play the champion of MSL4 West to qualify for the State League 4 Grand Final.

14.1.7. The winners of the Finals outlined in Rules 14.1.5 and 14.1.6 will play in the State League 4 Grand Final. The winner of the State League 4 Grand Final will be the State League 4 champion.

14.1.8. The champion of MSL5 South will play the champion of MSL5 East to qualify for the State League 5 Grand Final.

14.1.9. The champion of MSL5 North will play the champion of MSL5 West to qualify for the State League 5 Grand Final.

14.1.10. The winner of the Finals outlined in Rules 14.1.8 and 14.1.9 will play in the State League 5 Grand Final. The winner of the State League 5 Grand Final will be the State League 5 champion.

14.1.11. The selection of venues for the 2021 MSL Finals Series will be determined at the absolute discretion of FV.

14.1.12. If any 2021 MSL Finals Series match is postponed, abandoned or cancelled, that Final will be played within three (3) days of the original Final date at the absolute discretion of FV. This may include the Final being played the following day, and/or the Final being played at an alternative venue.

14.2. Procedures to Determine the Winner of Finals / Play Off Matches

14.2.1. All Finals in the 2021 MSL Finals Series will be played over one (1) leg.

14.2.2. If, at the conclusion of Normal Time in any Final, the scores between the Teams are tied, then extra time of two (2) equal periods of 15 minutes will be played in accordance with the IFAB Laws of The Game.

14.2.3. If scores remain equal at the conclusion of both periods of extra time, penalty kicks will be taken in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game to determine the winner of the Final.

14.3. Discipline

14.3.1. Yellow cards accumulated by a player during the MSL Finals Series will not be counted for the purposes of clause 4.3.a of the GDT. However, if a player receives their 5th yellow card in their Team's final Regular Season Competition Fixture, clause 4.3.a. of the GDT will apply and that player will be suspended for their first Final of the 2021 MSL Finals Series for the relevant Division.

14.4 Player Restrictions

14.4.1 Each player must have played at least five (5) Regular Season Competition Fixtures for that Team to qualify to play Finals & Playoffs in 2021 for that Team.

14.4.2 Competition Fixtures played by a player in either the reserve or senior Teams for a Club count towards the player eligibility requirements listed in Rule 14.4.1.

14.4.3 FV will only consider an exception to Rule 14.4.1 in exceptional circumstances and where a Club/Team can establish that it is unable to field a Team for a Final (in compliance with Rule 14.4.1) due to insufficient player numbers as a result of availability (including injury). Any Club wishing to rely on Rule 14.4.3 must apply to FV:

a. in writing;

b. at least five (5) days before the Final is due to take place;

c. setting out the reasons it requests an exception be granted to Rule 14.4.1, providing evidence in support of player unavailability; and

d. provide FV with any further information required.

14.4.4 FV will consider any request made in accordance with Rule 14.4.3 together with all information provided in support of that request and make a decision regarding any exception requested. Any decision made in this regard is at the sole and exclusive discretion of FV and is not subject to review or appeal.



2021 RULES OF COMPETITION

VICTORIAN PREMIER LEAGUE
WOMENS STATE LEAGUE

FOOTBALL VICTORIA

SCHEDULE 2 – 2021 WOMEN'S COMPETITION REGULATIONS– VPLW & WOMEN'S STATE LEAGUE

15. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

15.1. General information

15.1.1. These Regulations shall apply to all women's senior and reserve grade fixtures within the following metropolitan FV Competitions.

League Name	Abbreviation	Number of Teams	Supporting League
Women's Victorian Premier League	VPLW	10	Reserves
Women's State League 1 North-West	WSL1NW	10	Reserves
Women's State League 1 South-East	WSL1SE	10	Reserves
Women's State League 2 North-West	WSL2NW	10	N/A
Women's State League 2 South East	WSL2SE	10	N/A
Women's State League 3 East	WSL3E	10	N/A
Women's State League 3 North	WSL3N	10	N/A
Women's State League 3 South	WSL3S	10	N/A
Women's State League 3 West	WSL3W	10	N/A
Women's State League 4 East	WSL4E	10	N/A
Women's State League 4 North	WSL4N	10	N/A
Women's State League 4 South	WSL4S	10	N/A
Women's State League 4 West	WSL4W	10	N/A
Women's State League 5 East	WSL5E	6-18	N/A
Women's State League 5 North	WSL5N	6-18	N/A
Women's State League 5 South	WSL5S	6-18	N/A
Women's State League 5 West	WSL5W	6-18	N/A

15.1.2. Subject to these Rules and Regulations, at the end of the Regular Season including any Finals or Play Off Matches, the final standings of each League will determine which Teams have earned the right to be promoted or relegated between Divisions. A Team that earns the right to be promoted shall only be promoted for the following season provided it:

a. has no outstanding debts to FV;

b. has complied with any Rules or Regulations for Teams participating in the relevant League or Division including but not limited to those relating to facility and pitch requirements by the date prescribed by FV from time to time; and

c. is not otherwise in breach of these Rules and/or Regulations or any other requirements of FV.

15.1.3. Competition Fixtures may only be played on public holidays with the permission of FV.

15.1.4. All senior and reserves Teams will play on the same day with all reserve Competition Fixtures played as a curtain raiser to the senior Competition Fixture on that day, unless otherwise determined by FV.

15.1.5. To be eligible to participate in senior women's competitions run by FV, a player must be at least 14 years of age as at 1 January 2021, unless an application to FV for exemption from Rule 15.1.5 is made by the player's Club on behalf of a player and is accepted by FV.

15.1.6. An application made under Rule 15.1.5 must meet the following minimum criteria:

a. the application must be supported by a signed letter from the player's Club president supporting the application;

b. the application must be supported by a signed letter from the player's State Team/Representative Team coach or Club Technical Director;

c. the application must be supported by a signed letter of consent from the player's parent or guardian supporting the application;

d. the application must be supported by a signed letter of support from the player's medical professional listing general medical details of the player including height and weight; and

e. the Club/player must provide FV with any further information requested.

15.1.7. An application made under Rule 15.1.5 will be considered by FV. FV has sole discretion in relation to any application made under that Regulation.

15.1.8. VPLW Clubs will only be permitted to list four (4) Visa players on their Senior match day team sheet.

15.1.9. Any VPLW Club that lists more than four (4) Visa players on their Senior team match day team sheet will be in breach of Rule 15.1.8 and may be in breach of Rules regarding fielding an ineligible player(s).

15.1.10. Where a Club which does not hold a Senior NPLW Participation Licence, that Club may field Players up in age groups from its JGNPL teams (Under 13 – Under 17) into its Victorian Premier League Womens (VPLW) competition teams as follows:

15.1.11. A maximum of four (4) players from a Junior Girls NPL Roster can play up per fixture at one time in the Club's reserves or senior women's VPLW competitions teams. Players must be 15 years of age as 1 January 2021 to be eligible to participate in the reserves or senior women's competitions.

15.2. Multiple Teams in VPLW/Women's State League Structure

15.2.1. Club's may enter more than one Team in the FV Women's State League Divisions provided that:

a. No more than one Team from a particular Club may participate in the Women's Victorian Premier League in any given Regular Season;

b. No more than one Team from a particular Club may participate in the Women's State League 1 Division in any given Regular Season;

c. No more than one Team from a particular Club may participate in a particular League in any given Regular Season;

d. Clubs with multiple Teams in the FV Women's State Leagues must comply with the player eligibility Rules as set out in Rules 15.2.2 to 15.2.5 below.

15.2.2. Once a Player has played six (6) or more Competition Fixtures for the Team entered by her Club in the higher Division of Women's State Leagues (of the multiple Teams entered by that Club in any given Regular Season), that Player is ineligible to play in any Competition Fixture for any Team entered by that Club in a lower or equal Division for the remainder of the Regular Season (including any Play Off Matches or Finals).

15.2.3. Dispensation from Rule 15.2.2 may be provided on the basis of long-term injury or illness (minimum five (5) weeks). Medical evidence to support a dispensation application will be required and any decision in this regard will be made at the sole discretion of FV and will be final.

15.2.4. If a Club has two (2) or more Teams in the same Women's State League Division (but different Leagues), Players for those Teams are Team-tied from the sixth (6th) round Competition Fixture of the Regular Season.

15.2.5. Clubs with two (2) or more Teams in the same Women's State League Division (and therefore with Team-tied Players) must submit a Team list for each of those Teams to FV prior to their seventh (7th) round fixture, listing the players within their designated Team. Any new player joining one of those Teams after the sixth (6th) round must be allocated to (and can only play for) one (1) of the tied-Teams for the remainder of the Regular Season.

15.2.6. There is no restriction on movement of players between reserve and senior Teams for the same Club in the one (1) League.

15.3. Women's Victorian Premier League & Women's State League 1

15.3.1. VPLW, WSL1NW and WSL1SE shall comprise 10 Teams each, or such other number as determined by FV from time to time.

15.3.2. VPLW and WSL1 Teams will play each other on a home and away basis over 18 Rounds unless otherwise determined by FV.

15.3.3. Each VPLW and WSL1 Club shall:

a. field a senior Team and a reserves Team;

b. provide for all home FV Competition Fixtures a pitch which complies with the requirements of Rule 3.1;

c. other than FV representative Teams, field and maintain in FV Competitions not less than two (2) Junior Girls or Girls MiniRoos Teams (Under 8's-18's).

15.3.4. Failure to comply with Rule 15.3.3.c may result in the imposition of a penalty under the GDT or further sanctions as determined by FV.

15.3.5. Failure by a Club to comply with FV Registration Regulations regarding minimum player requirements for VPLW and WSL1; i.e. to be able to field senior and reserves Teams, may result in the Club forfeiting its position in the VPLW and WSL1 competition, in which case the Club may be relegated to a lower Division at FV's discretion.

15.3.6. The Teams finishing 1st in the WSL1NW and WSL1SE seniors and reserves competitions at the conclusion of the Regular Season, will be crowned Champions/Premiers of those Leagues and the 2nd placed Team shall be crowned Runner-up respectively. There will be no Finals series for reserves competitions in VPLW/WSL1.

15.4. Women's State League 2 - 5

15.4.1. All WSL2-5 Teams in all Leagues will play each other on a home and away basis over 18 rounds unless otherwise determined by FV.

15.4.2. Clubs competing in all WSL2-5 Leagues are only required to field a senior Team.

15.4.3. The Team finishing 1st in each League of WSL2-5 at the conclusion of the Regular Season will be crowned League Champion and the 2nd placed Team shall be crowned Runner-up.

SCHEDULE 2 – 2021 WOMEN'S COMPETITION REGULATIONS – VPLW & WOMEN'S STATE LEAGUES
15. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

15.5. Promotion and Relegation

15.5.1. The champions and runners up of VPLW may be eligible for promotion from VPLW to NPLW in the following season, provided those Clubs meet the requirements outlined in the NPLW license agreement as promulgated by FV from time to time.

15.5.2. The Champions and Runners-up of each League (NW and SE) of WSL1 may be eligible for promotion to the VPLW in the following Regular Season.

15.5.3. The Champions and Runners-up of each League (NW and SE) of WSL2 may be eligible for promotion to the WSL1 in the following Regular Season.

15.5.4. Those Clubs finishing in 1st position in WSL3 North, WSL3 West, WSL3 South and WSL3 East respectively at the end of the WSL3 Regular Season may be offered the opportunity to be promoted to WSL2 in the following Regular Season.

15.5.5. Those Clubs finishing in 1st position in WSL4 North, WSL4 West, WSL4 South and WSL4 East respectively at the end of the WSL4 Regular Season may be offered the opportunity to be promoted to WSL3 in the following Regular Season.

15.5.6. Those Clubs finishing in 1st position in WSL5 North, WSL5 West, WSL5 South and WSL5 East respectively at the end of the WSL5 Regular Season may be offered the opportunity to be promoted to WSL5 in the following Regular Season.

15.5.7. The Women's State League promotion positions are determined based on the team entries into the current league structures, should the league structures change in based on team entries the promotion positions will also be amended at FV's discretion.

15.5.8. A Club promoted or relegated in accordance with Rule 15.5 will not automatically be promoted or relegated into the corresponding League in the Division above or below. For example, a Club promoted from WSL4 North will not automatically be promoted to WSL3 North. Decisions regarding League positioning will be made by FV at its discretion and in the best interests of League and Division structures for the following season.

15.5.9. To be eligible for promotion into NPLW, VPLW or Womens State Leagues clubs will be required to adhere to the licensing or competition requirements for that level of competition. FV reserves the right to review clubs who cannot meet the criteria. Clubs who breach or cannot meet the criteria may be fined, removed, or not offered a position into that tier of competition.

15.5.10. All Promotion and Relegation Regulations outlined in Rule 15.5 are based on the continuation of the current FV Competition structure for the Women's State League. FV reserves the right to alter any competition structure for the following Regular Season. Any vacancy created as a result of such a restructure may be filled in accordance with these Rules and Regulations.

15.5.11. Promotion and relegation positions are at the sole discretion of FV and may be amended at any time prior to the commencement of the competition season, during the competition season or post competition season.

15.6. New Teams/New Division/New Leagues

15.6.1. All Clubs may apply to enter a new Team or Teams into WSL. FV will determine all applications in its absolute discretion and its decision is not appealable. Any Team entered in WSL will automatically be placed into the lowest Division of WSL (currently WSL5) unless otherwise determined by FV.

15.6.2. FV reserves its right at the conclusion of the 2021 Regular Season to establish one or more of the following:

a. A Women's State League 6 Division; and/or

b. A Women's Metropolitan Division.

15.6.3. A decision made under Rule 15.6.2 will depend on the number of Club and Team entries for senior women's football in 2021. Further, the placement of Teams in either of the Divisions referred to in Rule 15.6.2 will be determined, at least in part, by the finishing position(s) of those Teams at the conclusion of the 2021 Regular Season, where applicable.

15.7. Vacancies in VPLW/Women's State League

15.7.1. From time to time vacancies are created in Women's State League Divisions due to:

a. a Team withdrawing from a WSL Division or League;

b. a Team being expelled from a WSL Division or League;

c. a Team being deemed ineligible for promotion as a result of a breach of, or non-compliance with, these Rules and Regulations;

d. a Team being relegated as a result of a breach of these Rules and Regulations;

e. FV acting in its discretion may permit a club to self-relegate from their current WSL Competition for the following season provided it received notification from the club no later than 28 days from the conclusion of the regular season; or

f. other reasons from time to time.

15.7.2. If a vacancy is created in a Women's State League Division prior to the commencement of the Regular Season (whether that vacancy is created during the previous season or in the 'off-season' prior to the commencement of the Regular Season in question), FV have sole discretion when filling a vacancy. FV may choose to leave the vacancy and replace it with a bye, fill the vacancy by offering it to Clubs in accordance with the priority set out in Rules 15.7.3and 15.7.4 or decide upon an alternate outcome in FV's sole discretion.

15.7.3. Vacancies created in accordance with Rules 15.7.1 and 15.7.2 will be filled in the following order of priority:

a. The highest finishing Team which is to be, or has been, relegated in accordance with these Regulations from the Division in which the vacancy arises;

b. If applicable, the highest finishing loser of the Play Off Final matches referred to in Rule 15.5.5, followed by the remaining loser of the Play Off Final matches referred to in Rule 15.5.5 (if relevant);

c. If applicable, the highest finishing loser of the Play Off Semi Final matches referred to in Rules 15.5.6 & 15.5.7, followed by the remaining loser of the Play Off Semi Final matches referred to in Rules 15.5.6 and 15.5.7 (if relevant);

d. Any remaining Teams which are to be, or have been, relegated in accordance with these Rules from the Division in which the vacancy arises in order of merit;

e. The highest finishing Team (based on order of merit) which misses out on promotion in accordance with these Rules, from the Division below the Division in which the vacancy arises; and

f. Remaining Teams which miss out on promotion in accordance with these Rules, from the Division below the Division in which the vacancy arises in order of merit.

15.7.4. In deciding on order of merit for the purposes of Rule 15.7.3 or where two teams are otherwise equal for the purposes of Rule 15.7.3, those Teams will be ranked according to the following (and in this order):

a. league finishing position for the respective teams;

b. average points per game for the current Regular Season (i.e. the season before the Regular Season in which the vacancy needs to be filled);

c. average Goal Difference per game for the current Regular Season (i.e. the season before the Regular Season in which the vacancy needs to be filled);

d. average goals FOR per game for the current Regular Season (i.e. the season before the Regular Season in which the vacancy needs to be filled); or

e. the Team and the Club's disciplinary record for the current Regular Season (i.e. the season before the Regular Season in which the vacancy needs to be filled).

15.7.5. If Teams cannot be separated under Rule 15.7.4 then those Teams may be required to play a Play Off Match in circumstances where they both seek promotion to the higher Division in question.

15.7.6. FV, acting in its discretion, may decide not to fill a vacancy in Women's State Leagues where doing so would disrupt lower Leagues and/or Divisions, for example where a League vacancy is created in close proximity to the start of the Regular Season.

15.8. Scheduling of Matches – Days of Play

15.8.1. VPLW/WSL Competition Fixtures will be played on either Friday, Sunday or Monday, although FV may schedule Competition Fixtures on other days as it deems necessary, or otherwise approves.

15.8.2. Friday or Monday night FV Competition Fixtures may not kick off earlier than 6.15pm (Reserves) or 8.30pm (Seniors), unless either Competition Fixture has been rescheduled according to Rule 4.3.

15.8.3. VPLW/WSL Competition Fixtures cannot be scheduled for a Friday or Monday night if the distance between the home venues of the two (2) Clubs exceeds 50km, unless upon written agreement of the two (2) Clubs or determined by FV at its absolute and sole discretion.

15.8.4. Sunday FV Competition Fixtures may not:

a. Kick off earlier than 11.00am (reserves) or 1.00pm (seniors) unless either Competition Fixture has been rescheduled according to Rule 4.3.

b. Kick off later than 6.30pm (reserves) or 8.30pm (seniors), unless either Competition Fixture has been rescheduled according to Rule 4.3.

15.8.5. The applicable kick off times for Sunday Competition Fixtures apply to any Competition Fixtures held on public holidays.

16. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

16.1. Interchange

16.1.1. A maximum of 16 players may be named on the Match Record. Clubs may make any number of interchanges during the course of the Competition Fixture, provided the Match Official has been consulted first.

16.1.2. A Match Official may decline the interchange of players in the last five (5) minutes of the second half of a Competition Fixture if in his or her opinion the change is being made to deliberately delay play.

16.1.3. All substitutes must be seated within the Technical Area.

16.2. Match Balls

16.2.1. The Home Club shall provide the appointed Match Official with three (3) match balls (size 5) no later than 30 minutes prior to the start of the scheduled Competition Fixture.

16.2.2. All Clubs must use a licensed match ball from one (1) of FV's licensed ball manufacturers as advised by FV from time to time.

For season 2021 the ball manufacturers include;

- Adidas

- Deploy Sports Group

- Icon Sports

- Mitre

- Nike- Team Sports Australasia

- UHLSport

Please see link below for contact details;
https://www.footballvictoria.com.au/about/partners

16.2.3. Any breach of the match ball licensing arrangements must be reported to FV by the Match Official.

16.3. Results of FV Competition Fixtures

16.3.1. *Senior and Reserve Leagues – Minimum Requirements if no match official is present at the fixture.*

a. Home Team

(i) Half Time Score

(ii) Full Time Score

(iii) Home Team Player List

(iv) Home Team Goal Scorers

(v) Home Team Cautions

b. Away Team

(i) Away Team Player List

(ii) Away Team Goal Scorers

(iii) Away Team Cautions

16.3.2. *Results*

a. All results including goal scorers, substitutions and cautions shall be submitted by the match official no more than 90 minutes following the conclusion of the Competition Fixture.

b. All player lists must be submitted by the home and away team prior to the commencement of the match as part of the online match record process.

16.3.3. All results, cautions, substitutions, best and fairest votes, reporting and player lists and goal scorers must be submitted via Sports TG.

16.3.4. Clubs which fail to submit results, cautions and goal scorers (when requested or when a match official is not present) or, player lists prior to the match commencing on the online match record template in accordance with Rule 16.3 may be fined or penalised for Misconduct under the GDT.



17. FIXTURE DETAILS

17.1. Admittance to Competition Fixtures

17.1.1. Admittance to all Women's State League Competition Fixtures is free of charge, including car parking.



18. MATCH OFFICIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

18.1. Best and Fairest Votes

18.1.1. At the conclusion of each senior VPLW and WSL Competition Fixture, the Match Official must complete the Best and Fairest Votes and submit these to FV within 24 hours of the fixture completion.

18.1.2. All votes must be recorded on Sports TG through the online match record process.

18.1.3. All votes must be treated with the highest confidentiality.

18.1.4. Votes shall be cast in a 3-2-1 format with three (3) votes given for the player adjudged by the Match Official to be the best and fairest in each Competition Fixture.

18.1.5. A failure to comply with Rule 18.1 may result in a Match Official being suspended from officiating or demoted to a lower Division.

18.1.6. A player who receives a Suspension (as defined in the GDT) in a Competition Fixture during the Regular Season (excluding Play Off and Finals matches) shall be ineligible to win a Best and Fairest award in any given Regular Season. To avoid doubt this includes but is not limited to a player who receives ten (10) Yellow Cards or more in a Regular Season.

18.1.7. A player who has a Direct Red Card revoked for mistaken identity shall be eligible to win a Best and Fairest award.

18.1.8. Best and Fairest awards will not apply in reserves Leagues.

18.1.9. In the event of no FV appointed Match Official, no Best and Fairest votes will be awarded for that Competition Fixture.

18.1.10. If two (2) or more players have the same number of Best and Fairest votes at the conclusion of a Regular Season, multiple Best and Fairest winners will be awarded for the relevant League.

18.1.11. Players that have played at more than one Club or have played in more than one League in the 2021 season will have goals and/or votes recognised as follows:

a. Votes and/or goals in multiple Leagues: the player's goals and/or votes earned in each League will be considered separate and do not carry over, irrespective of whether they were earned with the same Club or after transferring from one Club to another.

Example 1: Votes awarded to a player in WSL1NW cannot be counted in the final tally for the Best and Fairest Award for WSL2SE in that Regular Season.

b. Votes and/or goals at multiple Clubs in the same League: if a player plays for more than one Club in the same League in the same Regular Season, the player's goals/votes are tallied together, however the player will only be recognised in terms of her award as a player for the Club at which she finishes the Regular Season.

Example 2: Votes awarded to the same player whilst playing for multiple Clubs in WSL3N will be tallied together for the purposes of the Best and Fairest Award for WSL3N in that Regular Season.

19. VPLW/WSL FINALS SERIES

19.1. Competition Format

19.1.1. All VPLW/ WSL senior competitions will conclude the Regular Season with a Finals series.

19.1.2. The Team finishing on top of the ladder at the conclusion of the Regular Season will be crowned premiers of the VPLW competition.

19.1.3. The VPLW finals will follow the finals format outlined below:

The Teams finishing in positions 1 to 4 at the conclusion of the VPLW Regular Season will qualify for the VPLW finals. The VPLW Finals Series will be contested as follows:

a. *Week 1*

(i) 1st place will have the opportunity to host 4th place with the winning Team advancing to the Grand Final, losing team is eliminated.

(ii) 2nd place will have the opportunity to host 3rd place, the winning Team will then compete in the Grand Final, losing team is eliminated;

b. *Week 2*

(i) The Grand Final between the winners of the matches outlined in Rule 19.1.3 a (i) and 19.1.3 a (ii)

(ii) The Grand Final will be hosted at an FV appointed venue.

c. The winner of the Grand Final will be crowned the Champion of the VPLW league.

19.1.4. The champion of WSL1 South-East will play the champion of WSL1 North-West to determine the Women's State League 1 champion.

19.1.5. The champion of WSL2 South-East will play the champion of WSL2 North-West to determine the Women's State League 2 champion.

19.1.6. The champion of WSL3 South will play the champion of WSL3 East to qualify for the Women's State League 3 Grand Final.

19.1.7. The champion of WSL3 North will play the champion of WSL3 West to qualify for the Women's State League 3 Grand Final.

19.1.8. The winner of the Finals outlined in Rules 19.1.5 and 19.1.6 will play in the Women's State League 3 Grand Final. The winner of the Women's State League 3 Grand Final will be the Women's State League 3 Champion.

19.1.9. The champion of WSL4 South will play the champion of WSL4 East to qualify for the Women's State League 4 Grand Final.

19.1.10. The champion of WSL4 North will play the champion of WSL4 West to qualify for the Women's State League 4 Grand Final.

19.1.11. The winner of the Finals outlined in Rules 19.1.9 and 19.1.10 will play in the Women's State League 4 Grand Final. The winner of the Women's State League 4 Grand Final will be the Women's State League 4 Champion.

19.1.12. The champion of WSL5 South will play the champion of WSL5 East to qualify for the Women's State League 5 Grand Final.

19.1.13. The champion of WSL5 North will play the champion of WSL5 West to qualify for the Women's State League 5 Grand Final.

19.1.14. The winner of the Finals outlined in Rules 19.1.12 and 19.1.13 will play in the Women's State League 4 Grand Final. The winner of the Women's State League 5 Grand Final will be the Women's State League 5 Champion.

19.1.15. The selection of venues for all 2021 VPLW/WSL1-5 Finals will be determined at the absolute discretion of FV.

19.1.16. The Women's State League finals structure is determined based on the team entries into the current league structures, should the league structures change based on team entries the finals series format may also be amended at FV's discretion.

19.1.17. If any 2021 VPLW/WSL 1-4 Finals match is postponed, abandoned or cancelled, that Final may be re-played at a time and venue to be determined by FV.

19.1.18. FV will cover all Match Official Match Fees for all 2021 VPLW/WSL1-4 Finals matches.

19.2. Procedures to Determine the Winner of Finals

19.2.1. All Finals played in the 2021 VPLW/ WSL Finals Series will be played over one (1) leg.

19.2.2. If, at the conclusion of any Final, the scores between the Teams are tied, then extra time of two (2) equal periods of 15 minutes will be played in accordance with IFAB Laws of The Game.

19.2.3. If scores remain equal at the conclusion of both periods of extra time, penalty kicks will be taken in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game to determine the winner of the Final.

19.3. Discipline

19.3.1. Yellow cards accumulated by a player during the WSL Finals Series will not be counted for the purposes of clause 4.3.a of the GDT. However, if a player receives their 5th yellow card in their Club's final Regular Season Competition Fixture she shall be suspended for their first Competition Fixture of the 2021 WSL Finals Series.

19.4. Player Restrictions

19.4.1 Each player must have Played at least five (5) Regular Season Competition Fixtures for that Team to qualify to play Finals & Playoffs in 2021 for that Team.

19.4.2 Competition Fixtures played by a player in either the reserve or senior Teams for a Club count towards the player eligibility requirements listed in Rule 19.4.1

19.4.3 FV will only consider an exception to Rule 19.4.1 in exceptional circumstances and where a Club/Team can establish that it is unable to field a Team for a Final (in compliance with Rule 19.4.1) due to insufficient player numbers as a result of availability (including injury). Any Club wishing to rely on Rule 19.4.3 must apply to FV:

a. in writing;

b. at least five (5) days before the Final is due to take place;

c. setting out the reasons it requests an exception be granted to Rule 19.4.1, providing evidence in support of player unavailability; and

d. provide FV with any further information required.

19.4.4 FV will consider any request made in accordance with Rule 19.4.3 together will all information provided in support of that request and make a decision regarding any exception requested. Any decision made in this regard is at the sole and exclusive discretion of FV and is not subject to review or appeal.





2021 RULES OF COMPETITION

JUNIORS

FOOTBALL VICTORIA

SCHEDULE 3 – 2021 METROPOLITAN JUNIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS

20. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

20.1. General Information

20.1.1. These Regulations shall apply to all junior metropolitan Competition Fixtures.

20.1.2. Player ID cards (ID Cards) generated through Play Football are required in all junior Competition Fixtures. For clarity:

a. ID Cards must include an eligible photo uploaded to Play Football.

b. An ID Card with a photo attached after printing of the card will be deemed to be invalid.

c. ID Cards presented in an electronic form, including but not limited to smart phones, tablets, laptops and computers are valid.

d. Photocopied ID cards will be deemed invalid.

20.1.3. Where team numbers permit, Junior Leagues will be divided into the following zones:

a. West

b. North

c. East

d. South

20.1.4. In circumstances where team numbers entered into a particular junior age group do not allow viable zonal Leagues, FV may amalgamate available Teams into one or more of the following competitions:

a. Metropolitan (stand-alone)

b. North-West

c. South-East

d. Any other zone that FV determines in its sole discretion based on team numbers entered.

20.1.5. Based on the final standings from the 2021 season, the top five (5) teams from each "A" League (West, North, East & South) will be allocated to create North-West & South-East Leagues for the 2021 season.

20.1.6. All remaining teams within the "A" League will be allocated as per Rule 20.1.3 & 20.1.4 if required.

20.1.7. Junior Competition Fixtures will only be played on Sunday although FV may schedule Competition Fixtures on other days as it deems necessary, or otherwise approves.

20.1.8. Under 20 and Under 21 Competition Fixtures will be played on either Friday, Saturday, Sunday or Monday, although FV may schedule Competition Fixtures on other days as it deems necessary, or otherwise approves.

20.1.9. Friday or Monday night Competition Fixtures may not kick off earlier than 6.15pm or later than 8.30pm unless the Competition Fixture has been rescheduled in accordance with Rule 4.3.

20.1.10. Competition Fixtures cannot be scheduled for a Friday or Monday night if the distance between the home venues of the two (2) Clubs exceeds 50km, unless written agreement from the two (2) Clubs is received or as determined by FV at its absolute and sole discretion.

20.1.11. A player may only play up to four (4) years above his or her age group, or in the case of Under 20s and Under 21s the player must turn 15 years of age in 2021, unless an application to FV for exemption from Rule 20.1.9 is made by the player's Club on behalf of the player and is accepted by FV.

20.1.12. Any request for an exemption under Rule 20.1.11 must meet the following minimum criteria:

a. the application must be supported by a signed letter from the player's Club president supporting the application;

b. the application must be supported by a signed letter from the player's State Team/Representative Team coach or Club Technical Director;

c. the application must be supported by a signed letter of consent from the player's parent or guardian supporting the application;

d. the application must be supported by a signed letter of support from the player's medical professional listing general medical details of the player including height and weight; and

e. the Club/player must provide FV with any further information requested.

20.1.13. Any application made under Rule 20.1.11 will be considered by FV. FV has sole discretion in relation to any application made under that Rule.

20.1.14. A player who is participating above his or her age group will not be prevented from returning to play in his or her rightful age group unless that player is suspended.

20.1.15. For all Junior competitions, a player who has played at a higher division in a particular age group (e.g. 14As) for five (5) Competition Fixtures or more, cannot drop to a lower category (e.g. 14Bs) within the same age group for his or her Club for the remainder of the Regular Season (including Finals). This Rule does not, however, prevent a player who is playing 'up' an age group returning to his or her rightful age group in accordance with Rule 20.1.16.

20.1.16. A player may be granted a dispensation to play down a maximum of one (1) age group at FV's sole discretion as per the regulations within the FV Dispensation Policy.

20.1.17. FV may request information or clarification from a player or Club applying for dispensation under Rule 20.1.16 as it sees fit, and will make a decision in relation to the dispensation request at its sole discretion.

20.1.18. FV may refuse to grant a dispensation requested at its sole discretion and this decision is considered as final.

20.1.19. For under 12 – 21s Boys' & Girls' Competitions, if a Club has two (2) Teams in the 'A' division of a particular age group then players are 'team-tied' following completion of the fifth (5th) round of the Regular Season. Clubs will be required to submit a Team list for both Teams from Round 6 onwards, listing each player, which will be tied to that particular Team for the remainder of the Regular Season. Any new player(s) that are named on a Match Record for either of these Teams from Round 6 onwards, will be tied to that Team for the remainder of the Regular Season. Once a player is tied to a particular Team, the player must not be named on the Match Record for the clubs other 'A' division Team, otherwise they will be deemed ineligible.

20.1.20. Any junior competition with a flexible kick-off time may not kick-off earlier than 8:30am or later than 6:30pm unless the Competition Fixture has been rescheduled as per Rule 4.3, or as otherwise approved by FV in its sole discretion.

20.2. Junior Boys' Competition

20.2.1. Subject to Rules 20.1.11 and 20.1.14, players in the following age groups may take part in the Junior Boys' Competition 2021:

Age Group	Year of Birth
Twelves (12s)	Born on or after 1 January 2009
Thirteens (13s)	Born on or after 1 January 2008
Fourteens (14s)	Born on or after 1 January 2007
Fifteens (15s)	Born on or after 1 January 2006
Sixteens (16s)	Born on or after 1 January 2005
Seventeens (17s)	Born on or after 1 January 2004
Eighteens (18s)	Born on or after 1 January 2003
Twenties (20s)	Born on or after 1 January 2001
Twenty Ones (21s)	Born on or after 1 January 2000

20.2.2. The preferred kick off times for Junior Boys' Competitions shall be as follows:

Age Group	Kick-off Time
Twelves (12s)	10.10am
Thirteens (13s)	11.20am
Fourteens (14s)	12.30pm
Fifteens (15s)	1.45pm
Sixteens (16s)	3.15pm
Seventeens (17s)	Flexible (9am – 6.30pm)
Eighteens (18s)	Flexible (9am – 6.30pm)
Twenties (20s)	Flexible
Twenty Ones (21s)	Flexible

20.2.3. FV may alter kick off times of any Competition Fixture within the Junior Boys' Competition upon the basis of a fixture clash or otherwise at its discretion.

20.3. Under 12 & Under 13 (9v9 Competition)

20.3.1. As an exception to the Venue Requirements as set out in Schedule 6, the Boys' and Girls' Under 12 & Under 13 competition in 2021 will be played as per Rule 20.3.1.

FV Community Under 12 & Under 13 Competition (9v9)	
Number of Players	9v9 Including Goal Keeper. Max of 5 Substitutions
Field of Play	Length: 60 – 70m Width 40-50m
Goal Size and Type	Height 2m Width: 5m Permanent or portable goal must be compliant with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's Notice. 28 of 2010
Field Marking	Cones, Markers or Painted Lines are allowed
Penalty Area	Depth 10m Width: 20m Penalty Spot 7m from goal line
Duration of Game	2 x 30 minute halves
Half time	5 minutes
Referee	FV Appointed Green Shirt Referees
Assistant Referees	Club appointed Assisted Referees
Interchange	Maximum 5 Players
Ball Size	4

20.3.2. The offside rule will apply for under 12 and under 13 9v9 competition as per FIFA LOTG.

20.3.3. In accordance with FIFA LOTG, a penalty kick will be awarded if a player commits a direct free kick offence inside their penalty area.

20.3.4. The goalkeeper is allowed to handle the ball anywhere in the penalty area. To restart play after a save or gathering the ball with their hands, the ball must be thrown or rolled from the hands or played from the ground with their feet within 6 seconds, The goalkeeper is not allowed to kick or dropkick the ball from their hands.

20.3.5. Goal kicks can be taken from anywhere within the penalty area. Opponents must be outside the penalty area until the ball is in play. The ball is in play once it is kicked and leaves the penalty area.

20.3.6. Opponents must be at least 6 meters away from the ball until it is in play. The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves.

20.3.7. Red and Yellow Cards will be issued as per FIFA LOTG except in the following.

a. For any fouls that would ordinarily result in a red card, the match official will instruct the player to leave the field of play for the remainder of the match, any player sent from the field of play may be replaced by another player at the time of the offence. In this instance, neither team will be required to play with fewer than 9 players.

SCHEDULE 3 – 2021 METROPOLITAN JUNIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS
20. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

20.4. Under 21 Competition

20.4.1. Players born prior to 1st January 2000 will be deemed 'over age' players.

20.4.2. In the Under 21 Competition, Clubs may list and field a maximum of three (3) over age Players in any one (1) Competition Fixture.

20.4.3. In all Under 21 Competition Fixtures, Clubs must list each over age player on the Match Record by placing an asterisk next to that player's shirt number. Over age players are not required to present Player ID Cards.

20.5. Junior Girls' Competition

20.5.1. Subject to Rules 20.1.11 and 20.1.14 the Junior Girls' Competition will be played in the following age groups:

Age Group	Year of Birth
Twelves (12s)	Born on or after 1 January 2009
Thirteens (13s)	Born on or after 1 January 2008
Fourteens (14s)	Born on or after 1 January 2007
Fifteens (15s)	Born on or after 1 January 2006
Sixteens (16s) / Seventeens (17)	Born on or after 1 January 2004
Nineteens (19s)	Born on or after 1 January 2002

20.5.2. The preferred kick off times for Junior Girls' Competitions shall be as follows:

Age Group	Kick-off Time
Twelves (12s)	10.10am
Thirteens (13s)	11.20am
Fourteens (14s)	12.30am
Fifteens (15s) - Sixteens (16s)	Flexible (9am – 6.30pm)
Eighteens (18s)	Flexible (9am – 6.30pm)

20.5.3. FV may alter kick off times of any Team within the Junior Girls' Competition upon the basis of a fixture clash or otherwise at its discretion.

20.5.4. As an exception to the Venue Requirements as set out in Schedule 6, the Girls' Under 12 and Under 13 competition in 2021 will be played as per this Rule 20.5.4. below:

FV Community Under 12 & 13 Girls' Competitions (9v9)	
Number of Players	9v9 Including Goal Keeper. Max of 5 Substitutions
Field of Play	Length: 60 – 70m Width 40-50m
Goal Size and Type	Height 2m Width: 5m Permanent or portable goal must be compliant with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's Notice. 28 of 2010
Field Marking	Cones, Markers or Painted Lines are allowed
Penalty Area	Depth 10m Width: 20m Penalty Spot 7m from goal line
Duration of Game	2 x 30-minute halves
Half time	5 minutes
Referee	FV Appointed Green Shirt Referees
Assistant Referees	Club appointed Assisted Referees
Interchange	Maximum 5 Players
Ball Size	4

20.6. Composition of Leagues

20.6.1. *Division Categories*

a. The categories in Under 12 Divisions (Boys and Girls) are Kangaroos, Wallabies and Joeys.

b. The categories in Boys' Under 13 to Under 21 Divisions and Girls' Under 13, Under14, Under 15, Under 16 / 17 and Under 19 Divisions are A, B, C, D etc.

20.6.2. *League Size*

a. FV's preferred League size for all junior leagues is ten (10) Teams to facilitate an eighteen (18) round Regular Season.

b. In all Leagues for all age groups (Under 12 to Under 21) there may be a maximum of fifteen (15) and minimum of six (6) Teams playing an eighteen (18) round Regular Season, unless otherwise determined by FV.

c. Teams in Leagues of an even (6, 8, 10, 12 or 14) number of Teams may all play 18 Competition Fixtures during the Regular Season unless otherwise determined by FV.

d. Teams in Leagues of an uneven (7, 11, 13 or 15) number of Teams will either:

(i) have additional Competition Fixtures scheduled during their Regular Season; or

(ii) have Competition Fixtures removed from their Regular Season,

to ensure that all Teams play the same number of Competition Fixtures across the Regular Season.

e. Teams in Leagues of nine (9) Teams may play sixteen (16) Competition Fixtures during the Regular Season unless otherwise determined by FV.

20.6.3. *Under 12 Boys' & Girls'*

a. Under 12 competitions are self-graded (Kangaroos, Wallabies & Joeys Leagues).

b. Leagues of no less than six (6) Teams or greater than 15 Teams may be created in Kangaroos, Wallabies or Joeys Leagues.

c. If there are less than six (6) Teams in a Wallaby League it may be amalgamated with a corresponding Joeys League in that zone, or if there is no Joeys League for that zone, the Kangaroos League for that zone.

d. If there is less than six (6) Teams in a Joeys league it may be amalgamated another league as per Rule 20.1.4 or at FV's sole Discretion.

e. At FV's discretion, more than 10 teams may be allocated into a Junior "Kangaroos" League and take into consideration one of the following structures.

(i) Regular season fixtures may be fixtures in Catch Up Rounds therefore increasing the number of games played. For example, 12 team structure will be played across 22 Rounds.

(ii) Regular season fixtures may be played on a double weekend (Saturday fixture) and/or midweek to ensure a balanced league amongst Under 12 Kangaroos competitions.

(iii) Introduce a league split during the season, which will see teams split once each team plays each other once in the first half of the season. In the second half of the season, teams will then be split into top half and bottom half and play each team in their half, based on their standings.

(iv) Introduce a league split during the season, which will see teams split once each team plays each other once in the first half of the season. In the second half of the season, teams will then be split into top half and bottom half and play each team in their half, based on their standings.

20.6.4. *Boys & Girls Under 13 to Under 21s*

a. Excluding "A" league Competitions, the Top two (2) teams from each League of the previous season may be promoted to the next highest league in the next available age group for the following season.

b. For all Competitions, the Bottom two (2) teams from each League of the previous season may be relegated to the next lowest league in the next available age group for the following season.

c. At FV's discretion, more than 10 teams may be allocated into a Junior "A" League and take into consideration one of the following structures:

(i) Regular season fixtures may be fixtures in Catch Up Rounds therefore increasing the number of games played. For example, 12 team structure will be played across 22 Rounds.

(ii) Regular season fixtures may be played on a double weekend (Saturday fixture) and/or midweek to ensure a balanced league amongst 'A' competitions.

(iii) Introduce a league split during the season, which will see teams split once each team plays each other once in the first half of the season. In the second half of the season, teams will then be split into top half and bottom half and play each team in their half, based on their standings.

(iv) Leagues may remain unbalanced to ensure each team is playing the same amount of games. This may lead to clubs not having the opportunity to play against all opposition team an even number of times.

d. In all grades other than "A", Leagues of no less than six (6) Teams may be created. If there are less than six (6) Teams in a League, that League may be amalgamated with another league as per Rule 20.1.4 or at FV's sole Discretion.

20.6.5. In Under 13 Boys Leagues, Clubs may have more than one (1) Team in "A".

20.6.6. In Under 14 to Under 21 Boys Leagues, Clubs may have no more than two (2) Teams in "A", unless "A" is the only League in that age group. Clubs may have single or multiple Teams in any League lower than "A".

20.6.7. All Teams will be graded having regard to Clubs who wish to request to be graded into a particular league must complete an League Request which FV will consider the following and referred to in Rule 20.6.4;

a. A new club that did not compete in the previous season.

b. A team that has registered a number of new players to the club that have previously played in "A" League Competition from the previous season.

c. A team that finished in the bottom two (2) positions of the previous season however were competitive at the level.

d. A team that finished 3rd position in the "B" League the previous season however demonstrate they were competitive.

e. Other factors which may be considered at FV's discretion.

20.6.8. Age groups with one standalone division are considered an "A" League for the purpose of Rule 20.6.1.

20.7. Regrading & Late Team Entries

20.7.1. Following the conclusion of Round 4 of the Regular Season, a request to re-grade to a new League may only be considered by FV if:

a. the League to which the team wants to move contains a bye (i.e. an uneven number of teams); and

b. the league from which the team wants to move does not contain a bye (i.e. an even number of teams); OR

c. there is a concurrent request from a Team to move between the two Leagues referred to in Rules 20.6.1.a. and 20.6.1.b. above which would effectively result in a direct swap between the two Teams in question and, therefore, no disruption to either of the respective leagues.

FV reserves the right to action a mandatory regrade based on the facilitation of a direct swap between two Leagues.

Once the season has commenced, if in the situation multiple requests to move into the same league are received, the regrade priority will be given based on results and standings.

20.7.2. No Club shall have more than two (2) Teams re-graded in the same competition age group except in extraordinary circumstances as deemed necessary by FV.

20.7.3. FV may consider a request to re-grade which does not satisfy the criteria stipulated in Rule 20.7.1 above in exceptional circumstances. In doing so, it will give consideration to the following:

a. The extent of League and fixture disruption for other Teams caused by the proposed move.

b. Match results recorded between Rounds 1-4 of the current Regular Season. No request to re-grade will be considered if a Team has not won or lost all four fixtures.

c. History of the Team's performance across previous seasons.

d. Any additional information sought or requested by FV, including but not limited to referee and opposition feedback.

e. FV at its discretion may consider regrading a team between geographical zones

20.7.4. The following match determinations will apply to competitions affected by an approved request to re-grade:

a. Any re-graded Team will commence in its new League in Round 5.

b. Results and ladders for the regraded impacted league will be reset and previous results accounted for as 'grading games'.

20.7.5. The Re-grading Period will commence following Round 4 of the Regular Season. All re-grading requests must be received by FV no later than 24 hours after the conclusion of a Team's Round 4 Competition Fixture. Any request received after this time will not be considered unless, in the opinion of FV, the request benefits all affected Leagues.

20.7.6. All regrading requests must be submitted through the online form which can be found on the FV Website. One form will be required for each re-grading request that is submitted. Requests for re-grading or confirmation sought over the phone or via email will not be considered by FV.

20.7.7. FV will act in its sole discretion regarding regrading requests. All decisions are considered final.

20.8. Team Entry

20.8.1. Clubs that participated in the 2019 season, are required to Accept or Reject their respective teams during the 2021 Team Entry Period as communicated by FV.

20.8.2. Clubs may apply to enter any number of Teams, new or existing, in any one (1) age group.

20.8.3. Any Club entering a new Team in Junior Boys' competitions (Under 13 to Under 21) must submit a league request during the team entry period stating the highest league the team is wishing to be allocated to. In the situation no request has been submitted, the team will be allocated at FV's discretion.

20.8.4. *Junior Girls 'Team Entry*

a. Clubs may apply to enter any number of Junior Girls' Teams, in any one (1) age group.

b. Any Club entering a Team in Junior Girls' competitions (Under 12 to Under 19), will be considered by FV, taking into consideration the following:

(i) the league standings and results from the previous season in the particular and subsequent age group; and

(ii) the composition of team entries received for a particular league and or age group.

20.8.5. Any online Team application submitted after the closure of the Team entry period will only be accepted if a vacancy exists within that age group, preferably in the club's rightful FV zone, however inclusion in another zone may be considered. Placement preferences will not be considered when allocating late Team entries.

20.8.6. Further to Rule 20.7.4, if a vacancy does not exist, FV will consider entering a 'late' Team following the regarding process which follows Round 3.

20.8.7. Where a late Team entry is accepted by FV and that Team commences in a League after the commencement of the Regular Season, FV will determine the allocation of Forfeits for the number of Competition Fixtures missed by that Team (as a result of late inclusion in the League in question) at its sole discretion.



SCHEDULE 3 – 2021 METROPOLITAN JUNIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS
21. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

21. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

21.1. Substitution/Interchange

21.1.1. Interchange Rule – Boys' Under 12 to Under 21 competitions and Girls' Under 12 to Under 19 competitions:

a. A maximum of 16 players can be named on the Match Record. Clubs may make any number of interchanges during the course of the Competition Fixture, provided the Match Official has been consulted first and permits the substitution.

b. A Match Official may decline the interchange of players in the last five (5) minutes of the second half of a Competition Fixture if in his or her opinion the change is being made to deliberately delay play.

21.2. Match Balls

21.2.1. The following ball sizes apply:

Age Group	Ball Size
Under Twelve (12) Boys	Size 4
Under Thirteen (13) Boys	Size 4
Under Fourteen (14) Boys	Size 5
Under Fifteen (15) Boys	Size 5
Under Sixteen (16) Boys	Size 5
Under Seventeen (17) Boys	Size 5
Under Eighteen (18) Boys	Size 5
Under Twenty (20) Boys	Size 5
Under Twenty-One (21) Boys	Size 5
Under Twelve (12) Girls	Size 4
Under Thirteen (13) Girls	Size 4
Under Fourteen (14) Girls	Size 5
Under Fifteen (15) Girls	Size 5
Under Sixteen (16) – Under Seventeen Girls	Size 5
Under Nineteen (19) Girls	Size 5

21.2.2. The Home Club shall provide the appointed Match Official with 3 match balls of the appropriate size for that age group no later than 30 minutes prior to the start of the scheduled Competition Fixture.

21.2.3. All Clubs must use a licensed match ball from one (1) of FV's licensed ball manufacturers as advised by FV from time to time.

For season 2021 the ball manufacturers include;

- Adidas
- Deploy Sports Group
- Icon Sports
- Mitre
- Nike- Team Sports Australasia
- UHLSport

Please see link below for contact details;
https://www.footballvictoria.com.au/about/partners

21.2.4. Any breach of the match ball licensing arrangements must be reported to FV by the Match Official.

SCHEDULE 3 – 2021 METROPOLITAN JUNIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS
21. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

21.3. Results of Competition Fixtures

Junior Competitions – Minimum Requirements

21.3.1. The Home Team must submit the Full Time Score.

21.3.2. All results for Sunday Competition Fixtures that kick off before 3.30pm shall be submitted online by the Home Club by 6.00pm that day.

21.3.3. For non weekend Competition Fixtures and Competition Fixtures that kick off after 3.30pm on a Sunday, the Home Club must enter the results by 9.00am on the day following the Competition Fixture.

21.3.4. All Competition Fixture results must be submitted via SportsTG.

21.3.5. Clubs which fail to submit Competition Fixture results in accordance with Rule 21.3 may be penalised under the GDT.



22. JUNIOR FINALS SERIES

22.1. Results of Competition Fixtures

22.1.1. The Teams that finish as Champion of their respective League at the conclusion of the Regular Season will progress to a Final Series.

22.1.2. Final Series for junior competitions will be structured depending on the number of Leagues in a particular age group and grade. One of the following formats may be applied:

a. **Elimination Finals Format**; for example:

(i) If there are two (2) Leagues in a particular age and grade level across all zones, the Champions of the two (2) respective Leagues will play each other in a one off Grand Final; or

(ii) there are four (4) Leagues in a particular age and grade level across all zones, the Champion of each League will be fixtured in a Semi Final/Grand Final Format; or

(iii) If there is a Standalone League (i.e. there is only one League in a particular age and grade level across all zones), the top four (4) Teams from that League at the end of the Regular Season will be fixtured in a Semi Final/Grand Final Format.

b. **Round Robin Finals Format**; for example if there are three (3) or five (5) Leagues in a particular age and grade level across all zones, the Champion of each League will be fixtured in a single Round Robin format where each Team plays each other once, the highest placed Team following the round robin series being crowned overall Champion.

c. **Pool Finals Format**; for example if there are six (6), seven (7), eight (8) or nine (9) Leagues in a particular age and grade level across all zones, the Champions of each League will be allocated into separate pools, with a finals series played within and between those pools over a two (2) week period.

22.1.3. Details of each Finals Series format for all junior competitions and Leagues will be released by FV prior to the conclusion of the Regular Season.

22.1.4. FV may alter finals series formats as it deems necessary and acting in its sole and absolute discretion.

22.1.5. If any 2021 Junior Finals Series Competition Fixture is postponed, abandoned or cancelled, that Final will be replayed at a time and venue to be determined by FV.

22.1.6. Each Club/Team will be required to pay 50% of the Match Official fee for each Final in which the Club/Team participates.

22.1.7. FV representative Teams participating in any FV Junior Competitions shall not be eligible to participate in any Junior Finals series. If a FV representative Team finishes the Regular Season in a position which qualifies it for a Finals series, it will be replaced in that Finals series by the next highest Team in its League (based on end of Regular Season ladder position).

22.2. Procedures to Determine the Winner of Finals

22.2.1. All Competition Fixtures played in the 2021 Junior Finals Series will be played over one (1) leg.

22.2.2. If, at the conclusion of an Elimination Finals fixture, the scores between the Teams are tied, extra time of two equal periods will be used to decide the winner. Should the scores be level at the end of extra time penalty kicks will be taken in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game to determine the winner of the Final.

22.2.3. If, at the conclusion of a Round Robin or Pool Finals Format Fixture, the scores between the Teams are tied after regular time, penalty kicks will be taken in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game to determine the winner of the Final.

22.2.4. The Team which wins a Grand Final or a Pool Finals Format or Round Robin Finals Format competition will become the 2021 Champion of that age group Division for that season.

22.2.5. Where two (2) or more Teams are tied following a Round Robin or Pool Finals Format, the top placed Team will be determined in accordance with results from the Finals series in question (including goals scored for and against). Specific details of the ranking system to be adopted in this regard will be released by FV prior to the conclusion of the Regular Season.

22.3. Discipline

22.3.1. All Suspensions from the Regular Season will carry over to the Junior Finals Series.

22.3.2. A player that receives a Red Card during the Junior Final Series will automatically miss the next Competition Fixture (whether or not that fixture is a Final) and may be subject to further sanction in accordance with the GDT.

22.4. Player Restrictions

22.4.1. Each player must have played at least five (5) Competition Fixtures for that Team during the current Regular Season to qualify for a Junior Finals series in the same year for that Team.

22.4.2. FV will only consider an exception to Rule 22.4.1 in exceptional circumstances and where a Club/Team can establish that it is unable to field a Team for a Final (in compliance with Rule 22.4.1) due to insufficient player numbers as a result of availability (including injury). Any Club wishing to rely on Rule 22.4.2 must apply to FV:

a. in writing;

b. at least five (5) days before the Final is due to take place;

c. setting out the reasons it requests an exception be granted to Rule 22.4.1, providing evidence in support of player unavailability; and

d. provide FV with any further information required.

22.4.3. FV will consider any request made in accordance with Rule 22.4.2 together will all information provided in support of that request and make a decision regarding any exception to Rule 22.4.1. Any decision made in this regard is at the sole and exclusive discretion of FV and is not subject to review or appeal.



2021 RULES OF COMPETITION

MEN'S METROPOLITAN & MASTERS

FOOTBALL VICTORIA

SCHEDULE 4 – 2021 MEN'S METROPOLITAN & MASTERS COMPETITION REGULATIONS

23. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

23.1. General Information

23.1.1. These Regulations shall apply to all Metropolitan and Metropolitan Masters Competition Fixtures.

23.1.2. Subject to the Rules and Regulations at the end of the Regular Season, including any Finals or Play Off Matches, the final standings of each League will determine which Clubs have earned the right to be promoted or relegated between Divisions.

23.1.3. All Metropolitan and Metropolitan Masters Teams will play each other on a home and away basis over 18 rounds unless otherwise determined by FV.

23.2. Metropolitan Competition

23.2.1. The Metropolitan competition shall comprise 15 Leagues across 8 Divisions as follows, or such other number as determined by FV at any time.

League Name	Number of Teams
Men's Metropolitan League 1	6-15
Men's Metropolitan League 2 North-West	6-15
Men's Metropolitan League 2 South-East	6-15
Men's Metropolitan League 3 North-West	6-15
Men's Metropolitan League 3 South-East	6-15
Men's Metropolitan League 4 North-West	6-15
Men's Metropolitan League 4 South-East	6-15
Men's Metropolitan League 5 North-West	6-15
Men's Metropolitan League 5 South-East	6-15
Men's Metropolitan League 6 North-West	6-15
Men's Metropolitan League 6 South-East	6-15
Men's Metropolitan League 7 North-West	6-15
Men's Metropolitan League 7 South-East	6-15
Men's Metropolitan League 8 North-West	6-15
Men's Metropolitan League 8 South-East	6-15

23.2.2. FV will determine the structure of the leagues at their absolute sole discretion.

23.2.3. The Team finishing 1st in each of the Leagues referred to in Rule 23.2.1 at the conclusion of the Regular Season will be crowned the Champion of that League and the 2nd placed Team the Runner-Up.

23.2.4. All Teams will be graded having regard to their previous season's standing and results, FV's league request process and such other criteria as FV shall publish from time to time.

23.2.5. Metropolitan Competition Fixtures will be played on either Friday, Sunday or Monday. FV may schedule Competition Fixtures on other days as it deems necessary and acting in its sole discretion.

23.2.6. Friday or Monday night Competition Fixtures may not kick off earlier than 6.30pm or later than 8.30pm, unless either Competition Fixture has been rescheduled according to Rule 4.3.

23.2.7. Metropolitan Competition Fixtures cannot be scheduled for a Friday or Monday night if the distance between the home venues of the two (2) Clubs exceeds 50km, unless agreed in writing by the two (2) Clubs or as determined by FV acting in its absolute and sole discretion.

23.2.8. Sunday Competition Fixtures may not kick off earlier than 11.00am or later than 8.30pm, unless the Competition Fixture has been rescheduled in accordance with Rule 4.3.

23.2.9. The applicable kick off times for Sunday Competition Fixtures apply to any Competition Fixtures held on a public holiday.

23.2.10. Any online Team application submitted after the closure of the Team entry period (as advertised by FV) will only be accepted if a vacancy exists within the relevant League, or at the discretion of FV.

23.2.11. Where a late Team entry is accepted by FV and that Team commences in a League after the commencement of the Regular Season, FV will determine the allocation of Forfeits for the number of Competition Fixtures missed by that Team (as a result of late inclusion in the League in question) in its sole discretion.

23.3. Metropolitan Masters League

23.3.1. The Metropolitan Masters competition shall consist of Leagues of between 6 and 15 Teams each, based on geographic location, or as otherwise determined by FV.

23.3.2. FV will determine the Metropolitan Masters League structures at their sole discretion.

23.3.3. Metropolitan Masters Competition Fixtures will be played on either Friday, Sunday or Monday. FV may schedule Competition Fixtures on other days as it deems necessary and acting in its sole discretion.

23.3.4. Friday or Monday night Competition Fixtures may not kick off earlier than 6.30pm or later than 8.30pm, unless either Competition Fixture has been rescheduled according to Rule 4.3.

23.3.5. Metropolitan Masters Competition Fixtures cannot be scheduled for a Friday or Monday night if the distance between the home venues of the two (2) Clubs exceeds 50km, unless agreed in writing by the two (2) Clubs or as determined by FV acting in its absolute and sole discretion.

23.3.6. Sunday Competition Fixtures may not kick off earlier than 11.00am or later than 8.30pm, unless either Competition Fixture has been rescheduled according to Rule 4.3.

23.3.7. The applicable kick off times for Sunday Competition Fixtures apply to any Competition Fixtures held on public holidays.

23.3.8. Any online Team application submitted after the closure of the Team entry period (as advertised by FV) will only be accepted if a vacancy exists within the relevant League, or at the discretion of FV.

23.3.9. Where a late Team entry is accepted by FV and that Team commences in a League after the commencement of the Regular Season, FV will determine the allocation of Forfeits for the number of Competition Fixtures missed by that Team (as a result of late inclusion in the League in question) in its sole discretion.

23.4. Vacancies in Men's Metropolitan Competitions

23.4.1. From time to time vacancies are created in Men's Metropolitan League Division due to:

a. clubs not accepting the opportunity to be promoted;

b. a Team withdrawing from a Division or League;

c. a Team being expelled from a Division or League;

d. a Team being deemed ineligible for promotion as a result of a breach of these Rules and/or Regulations;

e. a Team being relegated as a result of a breach of these Rules and Regulations; or

f. other reasons from time to time.

23.4.2. If a vacancy is created in a Men's Metropolitan League Division prior to the commencement of the Regular Season (whether that vacancy is created during the previous Regular Season or in the 'off-season' prior to the commencement of the Regular Season in question), FV shall have sole discretion when filling a vacancy. FV may choose to leave the vacancy and replace it with a bye, fill the vacancy as per Rule 23.4.4 or decide upon an alternate outcome at FV's sole discretion.

23.4.3. If a vacancy is created in a Men's Metropolitan League Division prior to the commencement of the Regular Season (whether that vacancy is created during the previous Regular Season or in the 'off-season' prior to the commencement of the Regular Season in question), that vacancy may be offered to Clubs in accordance with the priority set out in Rules 23.4.4 and 23.4.5.

23.4.4. Vacancies created in accordance with Rules 23.4.1 and 23.4.2 may be filled in the following order of priority:

a. the highest finishing Team which is to be, or has been, relegated in accordance with these Regulations from the Division (refer to Rule 1.1.5h) in which the vacancy arises;

b. remaining Teams which are to be, or have been, relegated in accordance with these Regulations from the Division in which the vacancy arises in order of merit;

c. the highest finishing Team which misses out on promotion in accordance with these Regulations, from the Division below the Division in which the vacancy arises; and

d. remaining Teams which miss out on promotion in accordance with these Regulations, from the Division below the Division in which the vacancy arises in order of merit.

23.4.5. In deciding on order of merit for the purposes of Rule 23.4.4 or where two Teams are otherwise equal for the purposes of Rule 23.4.4, those Teams will be ranked according to the following (and in this order):

a. league finishing position for respective teams;

b. average points per game for the current Regular Season (i.e. the season before the Regular Season in which the vacancy needs to be filled);

c. average Goal Difference per game for the current regular season (i.e. the season before the regular season in which the vacancy needs to be filled);

d. average goals FOR per game for the current Regular Season (i.e. the season before the Regular Season in which the vacancy needs to be filled);

e. the Team and the Club's disciplinary record for the current Regular Season (i.e. the season before the Regular Season in which the vacancy needs to be filled).

23.4.6. If Teams cannot be separated under Rule 23.4.5 then those Teams may be required to play a Play Off Match in circumstances where they both seek promotion to the higher Division in question.

23.4.7. FV, acting in its discretion, may decide not to fill a vacancy in Men's Metropolitan League competition where to do so would disrupt lower Leagues and Divisions, for example where a League vacancy is created in close proximity to the start of the relevant Regular Season.

23.5. Player Restrictions

Metropolitan League

23.5.1. No more than two (2) players who have played in their Club's Men's State League Team (seniors or reserves) on any given weekend may play in a Metropolitan Competition Fixture that weekend.

23.5.2. On a weekend where a Club's Men's State League Team (seniors or reserves) is not scheduled to play in a Competition Fixture, no more than two (2) players who have Played in the Club's most recent Men's State League fixture will be eligible to play in a Metropolitan Competition Fixture that weekend.

23.5.3. If a Club has two or more Teams in the same League (of a particular Division) then players are 'team-tied' following completion of the sixth (6th) round of the Regular Season to one of those Teams. Clubs will be required to submit a Team list for each Team for Round 7 onwards, listing each player, which will be tied to that particular Team for the remainder of the Regular Season, with the following exemption for team-tied players:

a. Up to a maximum of three (3) players listed to a particular Team may play for the Club's other Team(s) in that League on any given weekend.

23.5.4. If a Club has two or more Teams in different Leagues (of a particular Division) then players are 'team-tied' following completion of the sixth (6th) round of the Regular Season to one of those Teams. Clubs will be required to submit a Team list for each Team for Round 7 onwards, listing each player, which will be tied to that particular Team for the remainder of the Regular Season, with the following exemption for team-tied players:

a. Up to a maximum of three (3) players listed to a particular Team may play for the Club's other Team in that League on any given weekend.

23.5.5. Further to Rules 23.5.3 and 23.5.4, any new player(s) that registers to a Metropolitan League Team after the sixth (6th) round of the Regular Season and is to play for a Club that has two Teams in the same league or Division, the club must allocate the player to one of the Team lists and that player will be tied to that Team for the remainder of the Regular Season (subject to the exceptions listed in Rules 23.5.3.a and 23.5.4.a above).

23.5.6. Where a Club has multiple teams in different Metropolitan Leagues/Divisions (i.e. a team in Metropolitan League 5 and Metropolitan League 2), once a player has played six (6) or more Competition Fixtures for the Team entered by his Club in the higher Division of Metropolitan League, that Player is team-tied to the higher Division Team, with the following exemption:

a. Up to a maximum of three (3) players who have played six or more Competition Fixtures for the higher Division Metropolitan League Team may play for the Club's other lower Division Team(s) on any given weekend.

23.5.7. To be eligible to participate in Metropolitan League competitions, players must be 15 years (or older) as at 1 January 2021 unless an application to FV for exemption from Rule 23.5.7 is made by the player's Club on behalf of a player and is approved by FV.

23.5.8. An application made under Rule 23.5.7 must meet the following minimum criteria:

a. The application must be supported by a signed letter from the player's Club president supporting the application;

b. The application must be supported by a signed letter from the player's State Team/Representative Team coach or Club Technical Director;

c. The application must be supported by a signed letter of consent from the player's parent or guardian supporting the application;

d. The application must be supported by a signed letter of support from the player's medical professional listing general medical details of the player including height and weight and;

e. The Club/player must provide FV with any further information requested.

23.5.9. An application made under Rule will be considered by the FV. FV has sole discretion in relation to any application made under that Rule.

Metropolitan Masters League

23.5.10. All players must be 35 years or older as at 1 January 2021, unless an application to FV for exemption from Rule 23.5.10 is made through the FV Dispensation Policy regulations by the player's Club on behalf of a player and is approved by FV.

23.5.11. No more than two (2) players who have played in their Club's Men's State League Team (seniors or reserves) on any given weekend may play in a Metropolitan Masters Competition Fixture that weekend.

23.5.12. On a weekend where a Club's Men's State League Team (seniors or reserves) is not scheduled to play in a Competition Fixture, no more than two (2) players who have Played in the Club's most recent Men's State League fixture will be eligible to play in a Metropolitan Masters Competition Fixture that weekend.

24. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

24.1. Interchange

Interchange Rule – Metropolitan and Metropolitan Masters Leagues

24.1.1 A maximum of 16 players may be named on the Match Record. Clubs may make any number of interchanges during the course of the Competition Fixture, provided the Match Official has been consulted first.

24.1.2 A Match Official may decline the interchange of players in the last five (5) minutes of the second half of a Competition Fixture if in his or her opinion the change is being made to deliberately delay play.

24.1.3 All substitutes must be seated within the Technical Area.

24.2. Match Balls

24.2.1. The Home Club shall provide the appointed Match Official with 3 match balls of the appropriate size for that age group no later than 30 minutes prior to the start of the scheduled Competition Fixture.

24.2.2. All Clubs must use a licensed match ball from one (1) of FV's licensed ball manufacturers as advised by FV from time to time.

For season 2021 the ball manufacturers include;

- Adidas

- Deploy Sports Group

- Icon Sports

- Mitre

- Nike- Team Sports Australasia

- UHLSport

Please see link below for contact details;
https://www.footballvictoria.com.au/about/partners

24.2.3. Any breach of the match ball licensing arrangements must be reported to FV by the Match Official.

SCHEDULE 4 – 2021 MEN'SMETROPOLITAN & MASTERS COMPETITION REGULATIONS
24. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

24.3. Results of Competition Fixtures

Metropolitan and Metropolitan Masters Leagues – Minimum Requirements

24.3.1. The Home Team must submit the Full Time Score.

24.3.2. All results for Sunday Competition Fixtures that kick off before 3.30pm shall be submitted online by the Home Club by 6.00pm that day.

24.3.3. For non weekend Competition Fixtures and Competition Fixtures that kick off after 3.30pm on a Sunday, the Home Club must enter the results by 9.00am on the day following the Competition Fixture.

24.3.4. All Competition Fixture results must be submitted via SportsTG.

24.3.5. Clubs which fail to submit Competition Fixture results in accordance with Rule 24.3 may be fined or penalised under the GDT.



25. FIXTURE DETAILS

25.1. Admittance to Fixtures

25.1.1. Admittance to all Metropolitan and Metropolitan Masters Regular Season and Finals Competition Fixtures is free of charge, including car parking.



26. FINALS SERIES

26.1. Metropolitan Competition Finals Format

26.1.1. All Metropolitan Leagues will conclude the season with a Finals series.

26.1.2. The top four (4) Teams in Metropolitan League 1 at the conclusion of the 2021 Regular Season will progress to the 2021 Metropolitan League 1 Finals Series.

26.1.3. The format of the 2021 Metropolitan League 1 Finals Series will be as follows:

Week 1

Semi Final 1: 1st v 4th
Semi Final 2: 2nd v 3rd

Week 2

Grand Final: Winner Semi Final 1 v Winner Semi Final 2

26.1.4. The Teams which finish in 1st and 2nd positions in Metropolitan League 1 at the conclusion of the 2021 Regular Season shall be entitled to host their Week 1 Semi Final at their home venue. The Grand Final will be played at a neutral venue to be determined by FV.

26.1.5. If the nominated venue(s) for Week 1 of the 2021 Metropolitan League 1 Finals Series is/are deemed unfit for play, alternative venues will be determined at the absolute discretion of FV.

26.1.6. The Home Club will cover all Match Official match fees in Week 1 of the 2021 Metropolitan League Finals Series.

26.1.7. FV will cover all Match Official match fees in Week 2 of the 2021 Metropolitan League 1 Finals Series.

26.1.8. The champion of Metropolitan League 2 South-East will play the champion of Metropolitan League 2 North-West to determine the Metropolitan League 2 champion.

26.1.9. The champion of Metropolitan League 3 South-East will play the champion of Metropolitan League 3 North-West to determine the Metropolitan League 3 champion.

26.1.10. The champion of Metropolitan League 4 South-East will play the champion of Metropolitan League 4 North-West to determine the Metropolitan League 4 champion.

26.1.11. The champion of Metropolitan League 5 South-East will play the champion of Metropolitan League 5 North-West to determine the Metropolitan League 5 champion.

26.1.12. The champion of Metropolitan League 6 South-East will play the champion of Metropolitan League 6 North-West to determine the Metropolitan League 6 champion.

26.1.13. The champion of Metropolitan League 7 South-East will play the champion of Metropolitan League 7 North-West to determine the Metropolitan League 7 champion.

26.1.14. The champion of Metropolitan League 8 South-East will play the champion of Metropolitan League 8 North-West to determine the Metropolitan League 8 champion, unless there is only one (1) League in that Division, in which case Rule 26.1.3 will apply.

26.1.15. All fixture dates and venues for the Metropolitan League Finals Series referred to in Rules 26.1.3 to 26.1.14 will be neutral and will be determined by FV acting in its discretion.

26.1.16. Where a standalone Metropolitan League competition exists (below Metropolitan League 1), the finals series will be the same as that set out for Metropolitan League 1 in Rules 26.1.2 to 26.1.3 above.

26.1.17. The Metropolitan League finals structure is determined based on the team entries into the current league structures, should the league structures change based on team entries the finals series format may also be amended at FV's discretion.

26.1.18. Match Official match fees for Metropolitan Finals are to be shared by the two competing Clubs/Teams, unless one of the competing Clubs is the Host Club in which case the Host Club will pay the Match Official fees.

26.2. Metropolitan Masters Competition Finals Format

26.2.1. The champion of each regional Metropolitan Masters League will qualify for the 2021 Metropolitan Masters League Finals Series.

a. In the situation where three (3) Competitions exist, the highest placed runner up will be included in the Metropolitan Masters Finals Series as per the following criteria:

i. average points per game;

ii. average Goal Difference per game during the Regular Season;

iii. average Goals FOR per game during the Regular Season;

iv. the Team's Disciplinary record during the current Regular Season;

v. if Team cannot be sperate, then those Team will be required to play a Play Off Match.

26.2.2. The four (4) Teams referred to at Rule 26.2.1 will be randomly drawn against an opponent for a semi-final in week 1 of the 2021 Metropolitan Masters Finals Series.

26.2.3. The winners of the semi-finals referred to in Rule 26.2.2 will compete in the 2021 Metropolitan Masters Grand Final.

26.2.4. All venues for the Metropolitan Masters Finals Series will be neutral and will be determined by FV at its discretion.

26.2.5. Match Official match fees for Metropolitan Masters Finals are to be shared by the two competing Clubs/Teams, unless one of the competing Clubs is the Host Club in which case the Host Club will pay the Match Official fees.

26.3. Procedure to Determine the Winner of Finals

26.3.1. All Competition Fixtures played in the 2021 Metropolitan League and Metropolitan Masters League Finals Series will be played over one (1) leg.

26.3.2. If, at the conclusion of any Final, the scores between the Teams are tied, then extra time of two (2) equal periods of 15 minutes will be played in accordance with IFAB Laws of The Game.

26.3.3. If scores remain equal at the conclusion of both periods of extra time, penalty kicks will be taken in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game to determine the winner of the Competition Fixture.

26.4. Discipline

26.4.1. Yellow cards accumulated by a player during the Finals Series will not be counted for the purposes of clause 4.3.a of the GDT. However, if a player receives their 5th yellow card in their Team's final Regular Season Competition Fixture they shall be suspended for the first applicable Final of the 2021 Finals Series.

26.5. Player Restrictions

26.5.1. Each player must have played at least five (5) Competition Fixtures for that particular Team during the current Regular Season to qualify for a Metropolitan or Metropolitan Masters Finals series in the same year for that Team.

26.5.2. FV will only consider an exception to Rule 26.5.1 in exceptional circumstances and where a Club/Team can establish that it is unable to field a Team for a Final (in compliance with Rule 26.5.1) due to insufficient player numbers as a result of availability (including injury). Any Club wishing to rely on Rule 26.5.2 must apply to FV:

a. in writing;

b. at least 5 days before the Final is due to take place;

c. setting out the reasons it requests an exception be granted to Rule 26.5.1, providing evidence in support of player unavailability; and

d. provide FV with any further information required.

26.5.3. FV will consider any request made in accordance with Rule 26.5.2 together will all information provided in support of that request and make a decision regarding any exception to Rule 26.5.1. Any decision made in this regard is at the sole and exclusive discretion of FV and is not subject to review or appeal.

SCHEDULE 5 – CODES OF BEHAVIOUR

Overview

The following codes are deemed to be incorporated into these Rules of Competition:

- FA National Spectator Code of Behaviour,
- FA National Code of Conduct,
- Victorian Code of Conduct for Community Sport (Fair Play Code)

- It is vital that everyone involved in Football, whether they are athletes, coaches, parents, officials or supporters, understand their responsibilities to ensure that all participants enjoy the sport.
- It is strongly recommended that all players, parents, officials, coaches and members be given a copy of these codes by their Club, and that each Club ensures the codes are clearly displayed in their Clubrooms.
- As well as reading and seeking to understand the instructions contained in the codes, FV asks all participants to recognise that there are underlying principles which extend beyond those specific instructions.

General Principles for all Persons Involved in Sport

- Operate within the Rules and spirit of Football, promoting fair play over winning at any cost.
- Encourage and support opportunities for people to learn appropriate behaviours and skills.
- Support opportunities for participation in all aspects of the sport.
- Treat each person as an individual.
- Display control and courtesy to all involved with the sport.
- Respect the rights and worth of every person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Respect the decisions of officials, coaches and administrators in the conduct of the sport.
- Wherever practical, avoid unaccompanied and unobserved one-on-one activity (when in a supervisory capacity or where a power imbalance will exist) with people under the age of 18 years.
- Adopt appropriate and responsible behaviour in all interactions.
- Adopt responsible behaviour in relation to alcohol and other drugs.
- Act with integrity and objectivity, and accept responsibility for your decisions and actions.
- Ensure your decisions and actions contribute to a safe environment.
- Do not tolerate harmful or abusive behaviours.
- Do not bring the game of Football into Disrepute, by engaging in discriminatory, offensive or criminal behaviour.

- Ensure your decisions and actions contribute to a harassment free environment.
- Do not bring the game into Disrepute by engaging in harassment, including sexual harassment or any unwelcome sexual conduct which makes a person feel offended, humiliated and/or intimidated.
- Do not bring the game into Disrepute by provoking or inciting hatred or violence, including crowd violence.
- Do not bring the game into Disrepute by engaging in corruption, forgery or falsification, or by abusing a position to obtain a personal benefit.
- Do not bring the game into Disrepute by the throwing or fixing of a match, by accepting bribes, or by any conduct intended to unfairly effect the result of a match.
- Do not bring the game into Disrepute by any other conduct that materially injures the reputation and goodwill of Football.

  (NB for the purposes of this code of behaviour 'Disrepute' means conduct, statement or appearance in public that is damaging to reputation).

Players' Code of Behaviour

- Give your best at all times.
- Participate for your own enjoyment and benefit.
- Play by the Rules.
- Do not argue with the Match Official. If you disagree, have your captain or coach approach the Match Official during a break in play or after the Match is concluded.
- Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials or other players, deliberately distracting or provoking another person is not acceptable or permitted in any sport.
- Be a good sport and be prepared to acknowledge good play whether it is from your Team or the opposition.
- Treat all players as you would like to be treated. Do not interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of another player.
- Co-operate with your coach, Teammates and opponents. Without them, there would be no competition.
- Remove all jewellery prior to training and Match play, as it is a hazard to you and those around you.
- Do not accept or use any banned or unauthorised drug(s), including the consumption of alcohol at any time.

SCHEDULE 5 – CODES OF BEHAVIOUR

Coaches' Code of Behaviour

- Place the safety and welfare of the participants above all else.
- Be aware of and support the sport's injury management plans and return to play guidelines.
- Help each person (athlete, official, etc) to reach their potential. Respect the talent, developmental stage and goals of each person and encourage them with positive and constructive feedback.
- Encourage and support opportunities for people to learn appropriate behaviours and skills.
- Support opportunities for participation in all aspects of the sport.
- Treat each participant as an individual.
- Obtain appropriate qualifications and keep up-to-date with the latest coaching practices and the principles of growth and development of participants.
- Act within the rules and spirit of your sport.
- Promote fair play over winning at any cost.
- Respect the decisions of officials, coaches and administrators.
- Show respect and courtesy to all involved with the sport.
- Display responsible behaviour in relation to alcohol and other drugs.
- Act with integrity and objectivity, and accept responsibility for your decisions and actions.
- Ensure your decisions and actions contribute to a harassment-free environment.
- Wherever practical, avoid unaccompanied and unobserved one-on-one activity (when in a supervisory capacity or where a power imbalance exists) with people under the age of 18.
- Ensure that any physical contact with another person is appropriate to the situation and necessary for the person's skill development.
- Be honest and do not allow your qualifications or coaching experience to be misrepresented.
- Never advocate or condone the use of illicit drugs or other banned performance enhancing substances or methods.
- Never participate in or advocate practices that involve match fixing.
- Respect the rights and worth of every person, regardless of their age, race, gender, ability, cultural background, sexuality or religion.
- Do not tolerate abusive, bullying or threatening behaviour.

SCHEDULE 5 – CODES OF BEHAVIOUR

Administrators' Code of Behaviour

- Act honestly, in good faith and in the best interests of the sport as a whole.
- Ensure that any information acquired or advantage gained from the position is not used improperly.
- Conduct your responsibilities with due care, competence and diligence.
- Do not allow prejudice, conflict of interest or bias to affect your objectivity.
- Help coaches and officials highlight appropriate behaviour and skill development, and assist in raising the standards of coaching and officiating.
- Ensure everyone involved in football emphasises fair play, and not winning at all costs.
- Be tolerant and calm under pressure and approach problem solving in a supportive manner as members and players will expect you to set an example for others.

Match Officials' Code of Behaviour

- Place the safety and welfare of the athletes above all else.
- Be consistent and impartial when making decisions.
- Address unsporting behaviour and promote respect for all people.
- Modify your approach to suit the skill levels and needs of players.
- Praise and encourage all participants.
- Be consistent, objective and courteous when making decisions.
- Do not tolerate unsporting behaviour and promote respect for all opponents.
- Emphasise the spirit of the game rather than focus on negative aspects.
- Encourage and promote rule changes to all players and members.
- Be a good sport yourself, as actions speak louder than words.
- Keep up to date with the latest trends in refereeing.
- Remember that you set the example on the park, therefore, your behaviour and comments should always be positive and supportive.

SCHEDULE 5 – CODES OF BEHAVIOUR

Parents Code of Behaviour

- Remember that children play the sport for their enjoyment, and not yours.
- Encourage children to participate and have fun.
- Focus on the child's effort and performance rather than winning or losing.
- Encourage children to always participate according to the rules.
- Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- Remember that children learn best by example, so applaud good play by both Teams.
- Support all efforts to remove racial and religious vilification, verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities.
- Respect the match official's decisions and teach your child to do likewise.
- Show respect and appreciation to Club officials, including coaches, officials and administrators. Ensure any issues are raised through the correct channels.
- Do not smoke or consume alcohol near the Team bench (Technical Area) or sideline.

Spectators' Code of Behaviour

All spectators must comply with the FA National Spectator Code of Behaviour.

It is important that all spectators at a Football Federation Victoria (FV) approved fixture are able to enjoy the Match in a safe and comfortable environment. Accordingly, each person present at a FV fixture must:

- Respect the decisions of the Match Officials, and teach children to do the same;
- Never ridicule or unduly scold a child for making a mistake.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person regardless of their gender, ability, race, colour, religion, language, politics, national or ethnic origin; Not use violence in any form, whether it is against other Spectators, Team Officials (including coaches) or Players.
- Not engage in discrimination, harassment or abuse in any form including the use of obscene or offensive language or gestures, the incitement of hatred or violence or partaking in indecent or racist chanting.
- Comply with any terms of entry of a venue, including bag inspections, prohibited and restricted items such as flares, missiles, dangerous articles and items that have the potential to cause injury or public nuisance.
- Not display, or attempt to display, the following items within the Venue:
    a. National, political or racial flags or emblems except for the recognised National flags of the competing teams;
    b. Offensive or inappropriate banners in either English or a foreign language.

- Not throw missiles (including on to the field of play or at other spectators) and must not enter the field of play or its surrounds without lawful authority.
- Conduct themselves in a manner that enhances, rather than injures, the reputation and goodwill of FV, FA, and football generally.
- It is the host Club's responsibility to ensure this Spectator Code of Behaviour is implemented and enforced against all spectators.

Victorian Code of Conduct for Community Sport

Every person in Victoria has the right to participate in community sport that is safe, welcoming and inclusive. At the same time, everyone plays a part in ensuring their behaviour and their actions are supportive of these values.

State Sporting Associations, leagues and clubs also have a responsibility to ensure participation in any community sport event is free of any anti-social behaviour. This means that behaviour both on and off the field should not prevent others from taking part and getting active.

The Victorian Code of Conduct for Community Sport (Fair Play Code) outlines behaviours which are expected of every person involved in community sport, and behaviours which must not be tolerated.

The Code supports Victoria's Strategy to Prevent Family Violence and all Forms of Violence Against Women by taking a zero tolerance stance towards violence against women. The Code also aims to encourage cultural and behavioural change as a pre-emptive measure against violence.

Acts of violence, discrimination and vilification are illegal acts in Victoria. It is a club's responsibility to report these to the appropriate legal authorities and ensure these acts are not tolerated by the sport or club.

State Sporting Associations, leagues and clubs will have the responsibility of adhering to and enforcing the code through sport specific penalties. Organisations that do not adhere to and enforce the Code will not be eligible for funding from Sport and Recreation Victoria, and any existing funding will cease.

The Code provides the opportunity to make a positive impact on community participation in sport and recreation by encouraging appropriate behaviour at all times. Implementation of the Code will ensure that community sport remains safe and inclusive for all.

Code of Conduct

Every person: spectator, player, club member, official, participant, administrator, coach, parent or member of the community involved with the sport, should work to ensure:

- inclusion of every person regardless of their age, gender or sexual orientation.
- inclusion of every person regardless of their race, culture or religion.
- opportunities for people of all abilities to participate in the sport and develop to their full potential.
- respect is shown towards others, the club and the broader community.
- a safe and inclusive environment for all.
- elimination of violent and abusive behaviour.

- protection from sexual harassment or intimidation.

This code applies to community sport, training and club sanctioned activities.

Breaches of the Code

The following behaviours are considered breaches of the Code:

- Violent or abusive behaviour towards another person.
- Vilification of any kind towards another person.
- Discrimination against another person based on their age, gender or sexual orientation.
- Discrimination against another person based on their race, culture, religion or any other irrelevant personal characteristic.
- Sexual harassment or intimidation of another person.
- Victimisation of another person for exercising their rights through the Code of Conduct.
- Failure to maintain a safe environment.

If any of these behaviours take place within a sport or recreational context, the relevant State Sporting Association, league, association or club is able to impose penalties or sanctions. For this to occur, the breach must be confirmed through an appropriate assessment process at the appropriate level.

State Sporting Association Responsibility

The responsibility of a State Sporting Association through the Code of Conduct is to:

- promote the Code of Conduct to all persons involved in the sport or club.
- ensure reporting and assessment processes are in place to identify and penalise breaches of the Code.
- report on the implementation of the Code to the State Government on an annual basis.
- ensure that every person involved in the sport is able to exercise their rights without fear of victimisation.

SCHEDULE 6 – MINIMUM FACILITY REQUIREMENTS – COMMUNITY COMPETITIONS

Heading	Rule	Venue Class	Requirement
Section 1 - Field of Play and Environs			
General	1.1	Senior & Junior	The Field of Play and related equipment including goals and corner flags must be compliant with the Laws of the Game.
Pitch size	1.2.1	Senior	Length - Minimum 96 metres, maximum 105 metres Width - Minimum 60 metres, maximum 68 metres
Pitch size	1.2.2	Junior	Length - Minimum 90 metres, maximum 105 metres Width - Minimum 50 metres, maximum 68 metres
Run offs	1.3	Senior & Junior	A minimum runoff area of 3 metres to any tripping hazard or solid obstruction, including fences and Team benches, must be provided.
Goals	1.4.1	Senior & Junior	Goalposts and nets must be in accordance with the Laws of the Game. The goalposts and crossbar must be made of metal or other approved material. They may be square, rectangular, round or elliptical in shape and must not be dangerous to players. The distance between the posts is 7.32 m and the distance from the lower edge of the crossbar to the ground is 2.44 m. Both goalposts and the crossbar have the same width and depth, which do not exceed 12 cm. The goalposts and crossbars must be white. Goals must have nets which must be secured effectively to the posts and ground to ensure the ball is trapped. The nets must be pulled back to allow sufficient safe space within the goal space.

SCHEDULE 6 – MINIMUM FACILITY REQUIREMENTS – COMMUNITY COMPETITIONS

Goals	1.4.2	Senior & Junior	Permanent and semi-permanent goals must conform to Australian Standard AS 4866.1-2007 - Playing field equipment- Soccer goals Part 1: Safety aspects and be properly installed and secured. Movable goals must be compliant with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's Consumer Protection Notice No.28 of 2010. Goals must not have sharp edges protruding that may cause injury.
Corner posts and flags	1.5	Senior & Junior	Corner posts and flags must be in accordance with the Laws of the Game. Posts must not be metal or spring loaded. They must be plastic or wood and stand a minimum of 1.5 metres above the ground with a non-pointed top. Corner flags must not feature nationalistic emblems or reference.
Pitch surface	1.6.1	Senior & Junior	The field of play must be safe and even without trip hazards.
Pitch surface	1.6.2	Senior & Junior	If a synthetic cricket wicket is present on the field of play it must be covered with soil or be of a material similar to grass. The edges of the wicket must not protrude from the ground or in any way cause a tripping hazard. The field of play must be configured so that the synthetic cricket wicket is not located within the penalty area.
Pitch surface - synthetic	1.6.2	Senior & Junior	Matches may be played on a pitch with a synthetic surface provided it has been constructed and maintained to at least FIFA Quality standard or as otherwise approved by FV. The venue owner may apply to FV for dispensation on this rule subject to proving a current maintenance schedule that continuously ensures the synthetic pitch is up to FIFA Quality and/or to a safe and fit standard for ongoing community football. FV may from time to time request the venue owner to provide an updated condition and safety report for the respective surface.
Line markings	1.7.1	Senior & Junior	The playing pitch must be marked in accordance with Law 1. However, Matches may be played on fields with extraneous markings provided approval has been sought from FV with specific regard to the number of, and colour of, any marking not outlined in Law 1.
Line marking products	1.7.2	Senior & Junior	Only products such as agricultural limestone or water based spray paint or other similar material which will not endanger ground users or damage turf grasses may be used for line marking. Lime, Herbicides and other products such as 'Round Up' that are harmful to a person's health can cause damage to the playing surface are not to be used under any circumstances.

SCHEDULE 6 – MINIMUM FACILITY REQUIREMENTS – COMMUNITY COMPETITIONS

Stretcher	1.8	Senior & Junior	One stretcher suitable for first aid and emergency use must be placed at the half way line prior to the commencement of each Match. The stretcher must remain inside the barrier/fence, in a safe and accessible position to first aid staff, for the duration of the Match. Wooden or canvas stretchers are not suitable. One stretcher may not be allocated to two pitches at any one time.
Pitch fence	1.9	Men's and Women's State League only	Where a pitch fence is not in place at least a rope or bunting around the pitch at a height of around 1 metre and a minimum 3 metres in distance from the side lines and goal lines must be in place to provide a clear indication of segregation of the playing area.
Technical Area	1.10.1	Senior & Junior	A Technical Area must be marked for each Team on the same side of the field and on opposite sides of the half way line. It must be located no closer than 7 metres and no greater than 20 metres from the half way line. The technical area extends 1 m on either side of the designated seated area and extends forward up to a distance no closer than of 1 m from the touch line. A Technical Area must be in accordance with the Laws of the Game.
Technical Area	1.10.2	Senior & Junior	The technical area must be marked in accordance with the line marking requirements in 1.7.2.
Technical Area	1.10.3	Senior & Junior	The technical area may be marked by crushable cones. If marked by lines they must be in accordance with the line marking requirements in 1.7.2.
Team benches	1.12.1	Senior & Junior	Two covered Team benches or equivalent seating with adequate seating for nine (9) people must be provided.
Section 2 - Player and Officials Amenities			
Players change rooms	2.1.1	Senior	Two players' lockable dressing rooms must be provided for each pitch in use. Each room must have access to hot and cold showers and to toilet facilities within the building structure. Recommended size for senior dressing rooms, excluding required shower and toilet area, is 25m2.
Players change rooms	2.1.2	Junior	Two players' lockable dressing rooms must be provided for each pitch in use including access to toilet facilities within or adjacent to the building structure. Recommended size for junior dressing rooms, excluding required shower and toilet area, is 20m2.
Match Officials room	2.2.1	Senior & Junior	Match Officials must have exclusive access to a lockable dressing room. The Match Officials room must be accessible without passing through any players' change room which is in use.

SCHEDULE 6 – MINIMUM FACILITY REQUIREMENTS – COMMUNITY COMPETITIONS

Match Officials room	2.2.2	Senior & Junior	Recommended size for Match Officials rooms, including required shower and toilet area, is 20m2. The room must contain a writing desk or bench and chair and have access within the building to a toilet and shower providing hot and cold water.
First aid	2.3	Senior & Junior	A first aid area**,** which can be made private by the use of curtains, screens or similar and providing basic first aid equipment all of which must be kept clean and sterile.
Section 3 - Spectator Amenities			
Public toilets	3.1	Senior & Junior	Access to male and female public toilets (or suitable unisex/family toilets) must be provided. These may be shared with player toilets.
Section 4 - Operations			
Access	4.1	Senior & Junior	The venue must be accessible by emergency services vehicles.